Wednesday, April 25, 2012 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 136 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DB BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net | Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

'THIS IS IT' Farmers from Hacienda Luisita erupt in celebration in Baguio City after the Supreme Court affirmed its ruling ordering the total distribution of the sugar estate owned by the family of President Aquino and pegging the land value at 1989 prices. RICARDO BACONGUIS / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

SC: ₱196M for Luisita

China daily warns of 'small-scale war' with PH

By Jerry E. Esplanada, DJ Yap and Christine O. Avendaño

ONE OF China's most popular newspapers has warned of a potential "small-scale war" between Beijing and Manila as a result of their standoff at Panatag Shoal, or Scarborough Shoal as the area is known internationally.

CHINA/ A/9

Manila firm finds gas in South China Sea / A13

Pasig rehab body starts estero cleanup along seat of power

By Kristine L. Alave and Riza T. Olchondra

AFTER CLEANING up the trash-filled Estero de Paco, the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) is setting its sight on another estero—Estero de San Miguel, the tributary behind Malacañang Palace.

Cleaning up the 2-kilometer tributary would be "good icing ideal" not only for President Aquino but also for the people living near the banks of the waterway, PRRC chair Regina Lopez said

PASIG/ A14

'Don't Stop Believin' chronicles Pineda's incredible journey

NEW YORK—At age 40, Arnel Pineda lived every wannabe rock star's dream, middle-aged Gen's fantasy and even one poor country's hope for financial success.

A little more than five years ago, as videos of Pineda performing Journey cover tunes played on YouTube, he sat at home in the Philippines on the verge of giving up his dream of a singing and songwriting career.

DON'T STOP/ A14

Warring hacienda farmers rally round Corona

By the Inquirer Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Supreme Court rejected with finality a bid by the family of President Aquino to secure at least P5 billion in compensation for its Hacienda Luisita, affirming a ruling last November basing the value of the sugar plantation at around P196 million on 1989 prices.

The court voted 6-6 with one abstention in the decision described as a "litmus test" of the government resolve to implement a Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program launched by Mr. Aquino's mother, Corazon Aquino, after she took power following a People Power Revolution that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Briefing reporters in this resort capital, where the high tribunal is holding its summer session, spokesperson Midas Marquez said the court ruling was "final and executory." He said the court would no longer entertain further pleadings and motions for reconsideration on the dispute that had taken 27 years to resolve.

The Supreme Court, sitting en banc, also ruled that the Luisita farmers may pay amortization fees for the next 30 years, according to the 1989 land values for the 4,915-hectare estate when Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) struck a

SC: ONLY P196M/ A/9

'Justice is alive in the Philippines'
• DAR chief vows to start process of distributing land / A13

FAST FACTS

Hacienda Luisita

4,915.75 hectares – Total area of agricultural land covered by the stock distribution program which was approved in November 1988

500 hectares – Area that had been converted for residential-industrial-commercial use—290 hectares were sold to Luisita Realty Corp. while 300 hectares were sold to Luisita Industrial Park Corp.

80.51 hectares – Area sold to the government as part of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx)

4,335 hectares – Land to be distributed to farmworker-beneficiaries (FWBs) or their successors in interest

6,296 – Total number of original FWBs of Hacienda Luisita who will benefit from the Supreme Court decision

4,206 – Total number of nonqualified FWBs, or those who will not benefit from the high court's ruling

₱196.6 million – The value of 4,915.75 hectares at 1988 prices

ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and Education Secretary Armin Luistro share a light moment on their way to the historic launch of President Aquino's Bagbag K to 12 Program in Malacañang on Tuesday. ERIK DE CASTRO / REUTERS

Luisita farmers hail Corona 'agrarian reform champion'

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Chief Justice Renato Corona appeared at the second floor veranda of the Supreme Court's summer compound on Tuesday to witness long-fighting groups of Hacienda Luisita farmers take a common stand to express their gratitude for his role in a decision that would finally allow them to take possession of their land.

Ecstatic cheers from sweeping farmers shattered the silence on the court premises, after the tribunal allowed Hacienda Luisita farmers to keep their

LUISITA/ A/9

K-12: No more force-feeding

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE DAYS of the old basic education program that President Aquino likens to "force-feeding" are over.

At the formal launch of his flagship Kindergarten to Year 12 program—commonly referred to as the K to 12 program—in Malacañang yesterday, Mr. Aquino said it marked the start of a new day for the country's youth who will now be given a "good opportunity to learn and achieve knowledge."

To be implemented in phases starting this school year, the K to 12 program will eventually see two years being added to the old four-year high school program.

Universal kindergarten started in

K-12/ A/9

Ruling shows independence of President's 3 appointees in SC

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Michael Lim Ubac and Marlon Ramos

THE SUPREME Court's final ruling on the distribution of Hacienda Luisita to farm workers showed the independence of the three justices appointed by President Aquino, Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara said yesterday.

"It tends to show that the Palace-appointed justices acted independently and did not pay a debt of gratitude to the President, unlike what we saw in the past," said Angara in a text message.

RULING/ A/9

ENTERTAINMENT
Corrupt deals mar TV 'prestige project' / H1

NEWS
SC stops Comelec's PCOS buy / A2

NEWS
Metro Manila sizzles at new high: 36.2°C / A5

ACROSS
P-Noy backtracks, won't sell hydro plants / A20

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2012

WEATHER FORECAST

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Isabela/Aurora	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Batanes	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Iloilo	Partly cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy	Cotabato	Partly cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Cebu	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy
Dumaguete	Partly cloudy	Davao	Partly cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ 2

11AM	4 23
4PM	25 2
9PM	24 4

SUPER LOTTO 6/49

11AM	3 5 6
4PM	5 3 5
9PM	3 7 2

SIX DIGIT (Pares/Impares)

5 9 6 6 4 6

4D LUZ, MIN, MIN

1 4 10 13 24 37

P16,535,086.20

SUPER LOTTO 6/49

18 27 28 36 44 47

P24,673,744.80

LOTTO, 3D/2D, 4D, 6/42, 6/45, 6/49 Draws 9PM LOTTO, except on 6/42, 6/45 Mondays

SC stops Comelec's PCOS deal

Chua denies being unruly on plane

By Tina G. Santos

BUSINESSMAN and honorary consul to Peru Fausto Chua yesterday denied allegations by an international airline that he was offloaded from the plane on Monday due to his unruly behavior.

"I categorically deny any untoward or inappropriate behavior that would have warranted my being offloaded from the Cathay Pacific flight from Manila to Hong Kong," Chua said in a statement.

Cathay Pacific said it offloaded Chua because he refused to fasten his seatbelt and made a scene in the Hong Kong-bound aircraft ramked for takeoff.

Chua said he intends to seek all legal remedies "arising from my cancelled trip and the irreparable damage to my name and reputation caused by the flight crew's unfounded allegations."

Chua explained he only wanted to remove the shoulder strap because he felt suffocated.

"I informed a stewardess that I would use only one seatbelt as I could not use the shoulder strap because I felt suffocated. In my previous flight from Hong Kong last April 9, 2012 via CX 919... I asked the same from a stewardess and she politely agreed," he said.

"The first stewardess allowed me to use just one seat belt. But another stewardess came and told me that I should use the shoulder strap. I told her the same thing but she insisted and even informed her supervisor," Chua added.

He claimed the supervisor approached him and threatened to have him offloaded if he continued to refuse to wear the strap.

Chua said the crew called up the pilot, who, he said, did not even bother to come out to verify the incident.

Through the public address system, the pilot announced that he would turn the plane around to offload a very unruly passenger, Chua narrated.

"I vehemently deny the allegations of unruly behavior thrown at me by the pilot and the flight crew," he said, adding that the flight crew just overreacted and blew the incident out of proportion.

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon and Philip C. Tabosa

BAGUIO CITY—The Supreme Court on banc yesterday stopped the Commission on Elections (Comelec) from purchasing the automated election machines that were used in the 2010 polls.

The high court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the Comelec's ₱5.8 billion contract to buy the 82,000 precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines which the poll body plans to use again in the 2013 elections, according to Court Administrator Midas Marquez.

All stakeholders were directed to participate in oral arguments on May 2, he said.

The high court had consolidated three petitions, which challenged the legality of buying the machines supplied by Smartmatic Corp. after the technical and logistical flaws these reportedly displayed during the 2010 national elections.

Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. earlier said the poll body has already worked out the glitches that the counting machines encountered in 2010.

"We are finished with the glitches, so we are just doing enhancements for 2013," he said.

One of the petitioners, the Automated Election System (AES) Watch, said it found the ₱5.8-billion price tag for the used machines too high.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. also filed a petition seeking to nullify the Smartmatic purchase, saying it would "cause grave and irreparable injury to the petitioners and entire Filipino people, as well as the political and economic future and integrity of the country."

In Manila, Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez yesterday said the TRO was only a temporary setback and that the poll body was confident that the high tribunal would eventually approve the contract with Smartmatic, and soon.

"With the TRO, we won't be able to proceed as we should [but] ultimately, it's for the good of [all] because, of course, if there are lingering doubts over the use of the system, that won't help us all," Jimenez said.

Jimenez said the Comelec was worried not just about the time it would take to conduct a bidding process but also the projected costs of a new automated election system.

"The question is, do we have the money to do this. We have a PT bill. Isn't budget but the projected cost is ₱6.8 billion so that would leave very little money for everything else," he said.

"We are preparing for all eventualities but ultimately the en banc will have to decide. The issue that we have is not just the time but also the money," he said.

According to Jimenez, it could take six months to conduct a bidding should the high court eventually decide to junk the contract with Smartmatic.

"First of all, many will participate and we have to evaluate all of them. We also have to study which machine to choose," he said.

The Comelec official, however, said, there is a possibility that bidding may not be a very realistic solution. But ultimately, the en banc will decide," he said.

Jimenez said the Comelec was hoping that the high court would issue a final ruling on the case before the end of May so that the poll body would still have time to make the necessary poll preparations should the tribunal rule that there should be a public bidding.

"At least this comes early which means that we can make other arrangements if necessary that we would have to make, this is just a TRO and not a final decision on the merits of the case," he said.

Brillantes last Wednesday urged the high court to rule quickly on the petitions, as the first house canvass to make preparations for a canvass o manual elections in 2013.

PCOS machine used in 2010

THE LOUNGE AT SM RESIDENCES
IS SIMPLY ELEGANT.
FIVE STARS!
★★★★★
Kim Chiu on location
at Mezza Residences.
FIVE-STAR HOMES IN PRIME LOCATIONS.
Cozy lounges. Just one of the many five-star amenities that you can expect from your SMDC home so that you can truly live like a star. SMDC also boasts of deluxe swimming pools, WiFi-enabled study areas, and high-ceilinged grand lobbies. And it's all situated in the best locations in the city with easy access to: SM Malls • Supermarkets • Schools • Transportation Hubs • Commercial Business Districts.
Best of all, these are masterfully designed by the country's top architects, engineers and interior designers for that completely luxurious lifestyle.
SMDC
The good guys!
www.smdc.com
Find us on facebook.com/smresidences
(02) 858-0300 • (0917) 500-5151

SC lets flight attendants file new plea

MANILA (STP)—The Supreme Court yesterday allowed the Flight Attendants and Stewards Association of the Philippines (Fasap) to file another motion for reconsideration of the tribunal's October 2011 resolution that withdrew a ruling favorable to the group because of a technical error.

The Fasap case was one of three major cases discussed yesterday by the high court justices, who are holding their annual summer session here, according to Court Administrator Midas Marquez.

The Fasap members turned up at the gates of the court's Baguio compound, wearing orange shirts and carrying placards.

Ding Dinglas, Fasap spokesperson, said they should have been at work on Tuesday but decided to go to Baguio to remind the court "that we are here, we are very much alive and we are very much involved."

In a resolution in the October 2011, the high court took back a Dept. T. 2011, decision issued by its 2nd division, which declared as illegal the retrenchment of 1,400 Fasap members who took part in a strike against Philippine Airlines (PAL) in 1998, and ordered PAL chair Lucio Tan to indemnify the flight attendants with P3 billion.

According to the high court, the decision should have been issued by a special court division which rendered the 14-year-old PAL to bar case, and reversed the case for deliberation by the court sitting en banc.

The tribunal's alleged "flip-flopping" over the Fasap case was one of the complaints that the House of Representatives made against impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona, who is facing trial before the Senate.

Dinglas said: "Regardless of [how] the impeachment trials end, we're not here for that anymore. We just want a final resolution and closure to our case. That's all we want. Why of late we just send it now so we can get on with our lives."

Florante Gabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

The Cebu Institute of Medicine Alumni Association

congratulates

The Cebu Institute of Medicine

on its

50th Commencement Exercises

on Thursday, April 26, 2012
at the Redemptorist Church, Cebu City.

and

The PIONEER CLASS OF 1962
on its Golden Jubilee

May the graduates of Class 2012 maintain the passing performance set by the classes of 2007 - 2011 in the Medical Board Examinations (average - 99.6%) making the

CEBU INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

the Number One Top Performing Medical School in the country as proclaimed by the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) Board of Medicine during the 45th National Convention of the Association of the Philippine Medical Colleges held at the Cebu Institute of Medicine, Cebu City on February 8-11, 2012.

and may CIM maintain its Culture of Excellence and continue producing

PHYSICIANS WITH A HEART

Sizzling 36.2°C in Metro

METRO Manila sizzled yesterday under a new high of 36.2 degrees Celsius.

The temperature, the hottest so far this year, was recorded at 2:10 p.m. at the Science Garden in Quezon City, according to weather observers here.

At the Port Area in Manila, the heat was just as searing with the temperature hitting 35.3°C, they said.

The highest temperature ever recorded in Metro Manila was the 37° C on April 6, 2005, also at the Science Garden.

At 2 p.m. yesterday, the temperature hit 39.6 in Iba, Zambales; 38.5 in Cabanatuan City; 38 in Tuguegarao City and Pagasa-ngao City; 36.7 at Clark, Pampanga, and 34.5 in Sangley Point, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

"We will have this kind of weather until the 30th. The 37th may pave to the hotter because there will be no funds of clouds on that day," Orio said in a phone interview.

Central Luzon will have cooler weather due to the tail-end of a cold front and so will Mindanao. Other parts

Fly from **Manila direct** to:

Singapore USD from **69**^

Darwin USD from **189**^

Low fares. Good times

Jetstar

BPI
Let's make it easy.

Saving is so easy when you're rewarded for it!

Just open an account or add more to your existing savings or checking account, then choose the reward that thrills you most.

Talk to us! Visit any branch or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com today.

Real Thrills!

Mike A seeks permit to travel to Japan, HK

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER first gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, who is facing a graft trial over the botched National Broadband Network (NBN) deal, has asked the Sandiganbayan to allow him to fly to Japan to speak before Filipino workers there and to meet with Japanese businessmen, and then on to Hong Kong for a "much needed" rest.

But prosecutors from the Ombudsman's office yesterday opposed the plea, saying the reason for the trip was not of extreme importance or urgency and it appeared to be more for leisure.

In his motion, Arroyo said he had received an invitation from Japan resident Evelyn Pineda-Seki to speak before Filipino workers in Kitaguruma-Ku, Tokyo, and to meet with Japanese businessmen to discuss possible investments in the Philippines related to hydroelectricity. He said his leave had scheduled his visit for April 28 to May 6.

Next is HK

After Japan, he said he intended to fly to Hong Kong to get some rest and return to the Philippines on May 10.

Arroyo said he had a right to travel because he had not been convicted of any crime.

"Accused must temporarily submit that he is still entitled to his constitutional right to travel as he is still innocent until proven otherwise, subject only to the limitations that his considerable Court may impose," he said.

He said he was willing to post a bond.

Earlier, the Sandiganbayan (anti-graft court) issued a hold-departure order (HDO) against the Arroyos, Abalos and Mendoza, which means they cannot leave the country without the court's permission.

Still, the Office of the Special Prosecutor, in its pleading, asked the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division that in hearing the case to deny Arroyo's motion instead.

Not pressing

The OSP said the purpose of the trip was not a pressing necessity.

It also said that Arroyo failed to support his motion with details of the trip, such as the name of his speaking engagements and business meetings. He also failed to provide contact numbers where he could be reached.

It further said that as an accused in the NBN graft case, he ought to know the country was not absolute.

Arroyo has pleaded not guilty to the graft charge in connection with his alleged involvement in the approval of the NBN deal with China's ZTE Corp., which was found to be disadvantageous to the government.

He was held liable for allegedly initiating a reconciliation meeting between Jiang Weihidder Jose de Venecia III and Mendoza, who were handling over the broadband project.

Smart Cleaning Solutions

Need a job?

Happiness is a Scooter!

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

www.fareastmed.net

PRIME PROPERTIES FOR SEALED BIDDING

METRO MANILA

MIXED-USE PROPERTIES

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

LUZON

MIXED-USE PROPERTIES

AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

VISAYAS

AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

MINDANAO

MIXED-USE PROPERTIES

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES

Corrections

IN THE APRIL 22 ISSUE, a story on Page A15—"Some chides Chiles for 'absurd' Beijing claim"—misstated that Bayan was "the nominated section of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP)." Bayan and the nominated section of the NDFP are different and separate from each other.

The same story misstated that it was Bayan that shared with the Inquirer, the answers of Jose Marie Sison to questions posed by Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes on the standoff between the Philippines and China at Scarborough Shoal. (international known as Scarborough Shoal. It was the nominated section of the NDFP—not Bayan—that shared Sison's answers with the Inquirer via e-mail.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections, clarifications or retractions to the City Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 800 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Residencia Street, Makati City, by fax, 897-2671 or by e-mail address dyanne@inquirer.com.ph.

The Daily Gospel

Wednesday - April 25, 2012
Mark, Evangelist

1st Reading: 1 Pt 5:5-14

Beloved, all of you must clothe yourself with humility to serve one another with one another, because God opposes the proud but gives favor to the humble. Now down, then, before the power of God so that he will raise you up in the appointed time. Have all your worries on him since he takes care of you.

Be sober and alert because your enemy the devil prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Resist your ground, firm in your faith, knowing that our brothers and sisters, scattered throughout the world, are undergoing similar sufferings. God, the giver of all grace, has called you to share in Christ's eternal glory and after you have suffered a little he will bring you to perfection, he will confirm, strengthen, and establish you forever. Glory be to him forever and ever. Amen.

I have had them for love of your agreement as I have to you by Silvanus, our brother, whom I know to be faithful, that I've written briefly, some of the kindness of God really present to all this. Hold on to it. Greetings from the community in Babylon, gathered by God, and from my son, Mark. Greet one another with a friendly embrace. Peace to you all who are in Christ.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, the one who refuses to believe will be condemned. Signs like these will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons and speak new languages; they will pick up snakes and, if they drink anything poisonous, they will be unharmed. They will lay their hands on the sick and they will be healed.'

So then, after speaking to them, the Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and took his place at the right hand of God. The Eleven went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs which accompanied them.

Reflection

'Have the bread of life.' I am what satisfies the deepest and most elemental needs of humanity. I am the most intimate reality in your life. As intimate to you, as nourishing as the food in your mouth. I am the one who knows your innermost depth like a friend, your best friend, your well healthy, strong and gentle. I am the one who enables you to take your stand, to see beyond and glory in the world, and to open the eye of your spiritual eyes to see God.

Classified Advertising Inquiries: Inquirer Classified Ad Offices, 800 Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. corner Residencia St., Makati City, tel. 897-2000, fax 897-2671, e-mail: inquirer.classified@inquirer.com.ph/inquirer.mktg.online@inquirer.com.ph

Head Office:
JEVEY - 577-6003 • 0917-855-3257
RONALD - 577-6047 • 0917-888-2257
JESSIE - 577-6046 • 0917-855-4157
EMILDE - 577-6042 • 0917-855-4152

Davao Office:
JEVY - (082) 306-0585 • 0923-304-7012
EMILDE - (082) 221-6981 • 0908-640-2177

need a job?

www.jobsmarketcenter.com

Indigo PREFAB HOUSE
Call:2456870/2167487
0917-7949874
P6,000/sqm
20ft.-P150,000
Free Installation! www.indigohouse.yolasite.com

MERCURY
Free Installation!

Noritake Dinner Sets
Fine Table Crystals and Flatwares
SUMMER VACATION SALE!
ALL CLASS A, NO FACTORY SECONDS!
30% OFF On Unlicensed Personalized Sets
30% OFF On Unlicensed Japan / Sri-Lanka Sets
30% OFF On Indent / Made to Order Sets
TERM OR LAY-AWAY PLAN ACCEPTED

Idec
1hp-P16,500
INVERTER SERIES
FREE INSTALLATION

TRIO DEALS
ALL NEW!
FREE!!
HITACHI
AIR CONDITIONER

Get your dream home with our best loan deals ever!
✓ Enjoy low, low interest rates
✓ Waived application fee worth P3,500
✓ Get a chance to win 1 out of 12 trips for two to Misibis Bay, Cagraray Island
Metrobank

Enrollment Ongoing
SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY & BUSINESS
COURSES OFFERED
Accountancy
Business Management
Marketing & Advertising
Tourism Management
SAP
SAS
Developing Tomorrow's Business Leaders skilled with Business IT Tools
asiapacificcollege
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN IT EDUCATION
Real projects. Real learning.™
Mcgolcanas, Makati City | Tel: 852-9333

527 Rooms
15 Storeys
1 Prime Location

Rising Soon!

HOTEL 101 MANILA

HOTEL 101 MANILA

www.hotel101.com.ph

CHEd OKs tuition hike in 222 schools

By Tarra Quismundo

The COMMISSION on Higher Education (CHED) has approved tuition fee hikes in at least 222 private colleges and universities across the country.

CHED said the number of schools increasing their fees this year could rise to 256 once its regional offices in Metro Manila complete the processing of all applications for tuition hikes.

Tuition increases in an average P413.02 per unit. But Metro Manila students will bear the steepest increase, with some 53 schools increasing fees by an average of P78.98 per unit.

The approvals so far indicate an increase of P1,436.20 for a student taking 18 units per semester at a school in Metro Manila.

Increases in "miscellaneous fees" are not yet specified. Current regulations allow schools leeway in enforcing miscellaneous fee hikes.

A total 301 private schools sought permission to increase tuition. Their applications were reviewed based on schools' compliance to CHED requirements, officials said.

The number of approved applications as of this month represents about 28 percent of the total 2,249 higher education institutions in the country.

Crime down 16%, says Robredo

By DJ Yap

THE DOST were not late it down—by more than 15 percent in the first three months of the year compared to the same period last year. The bad news is there has been a rise of high profile cases recently, Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo said yesterday.

For the first quarter, the national crime volume declined by 16.77 percent from a year ago, representing a drop to 35,889 criminal incidents, Robredo said in a statement.

"There have been several high-profile crimes that transpired in many urban centers of the country, particularly in Metro Manila, but the police are always working on the resolution of said cases," Robredo said.

Several cases that came to mind are the murder of actor Rodjun Barrios, an theft incidents where the victims were killed; the shooting of a reporter in Pasay City, robberies and killings of tourists, and the invasion of a banker's home and the killing of his guards.

Citing reports from the Philippine National Police Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, Robredo said there were 34,040 index crimes recorded from January to March this year, a 19.86 percent drop from the same period last year.

Non-index crimes, on the other hand, totaled 21,637 in the first quarter or 11.40 percent lower than the 24,420 recorded last year.

Index crimes are offenses against persons and property, such as murder, homicide, rape, robbery and arson, while non-index crimes are relatively minor offenses, but include violations of ordinances, as well as of special laws such as anti-illegal logging.

"The comparative crime trend between the first quarters of 2011 and 2012 indicates a significant drop in crimes in the first three months of this year. That is a total crime volume of 66,899 in 2011 and 55,680 in 2012, or a decrease of 16.77 percent," Robredo said.

"If the trend does not change, we can safely assume the peace and order situation will improve for the rest of the year," he added.

"The sad part," he said, "is that the resolution of said incidents do not merit the same prominence in the media compared to when they were first aired or published."

He said the effectiveness of the police in solving crimes also improved in the first quarter.

Based on reports by Chief Supt. Aaron Aquino, DIDM chief, the PNP's national crime solution efficiency rate for the first quarter rose to 34.28 percent, much improved over the 20.09 percent efficiency rate the same period last year.

But Robredo said the PNP still had plenty of room for improvement. He said it should focus its efforts on crime prevention and intensify its visibility to deter criminals.

China daily warns of 'small-scale war'

From page A1

The Global Times, in an editorial published in its Chinese and English editions, said over the weekend that "China should be prepared to engage in a small-scale war at one with the Philippines."

"Once the new empire, China must take resolute action to deliver a clear message to the outside world that it does not want a war, but definitely has no fear of it," the editorial said.

Malacañang and Philippine military officials were subdued by the weighty words delivered.

In a speech at Xavier School in Greenhills, San Juan City, President Aquino yesterday said his administration was raising international awareness on the territorial dispute between the Philippines and China to show the global community how Beijing was treating Manila.

Same treatment

Mr. Aquino said the Philippines wanted to take the issue to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea for China's cooperation was needed to resolve it.

"Our weapon really here is to let the world to know what we are doing," the President said. "Those nations could start thinking if this is how we are being treated—whether they are so big or so small or so—maybe there will come a time that they will get the same treatment [from China]," he said.

He maintained it was not his intention to escalate the problem with China.

"We want the dead," Mr. Aquino said, referring to Panatag, which lies about 200 kilometers west of Zambales province. "But so long a time we treat it and [we are] recognized by international law, especially under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos). That's the only thing that we're asking."

Asked for comment on the Chinese paper's editorial, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesperson Saul Hernandez said that "such irresponsible comments do not merit a response from us."

The Global Times is owned by the Chinese Communist Party's mouthpiece, The People's Daily. It has a reputation for publishing nationalistic editorials that are often highly critical of foreign governments and even Chinese officials.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario urged Beijing to answer with Manila's proposal to resolve the territorial disputes between the two countries in accordance with the Unclos.

'They're lying,' ships still there

In Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, the head of the military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) accused China of lying when it claimed it had withdrawn most of its vessels in Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

"We are telling them they're not telling the truth," Nolcom commander Lt. Gen. Anthony Alcantara told visiting defense reporters.

In a press briefing, Alcantara said at least seven Chinese vessels remained in the vicinity of Panatag, including two small fishing boats anchored on the lagoon and three other fishing vessels off a satellite.

Alcantara said two Chinese maritime ships—the gunboat FLEC 311 and the surveillance ship CMS 71—had been sighted in the Panatag waters as of 8 p.m. Monday.

Two more surveillance ships, the CMS 84 and 75, are believed to be replenishing provisions and refueling somewhere in the Chinese mainland, he added.

Chinese statement

The presence of the ships, according to Alcantara, belied a statement from the Chinese embassy that only one Chinese surveillance ship remained in the area, and that the two others had been recalled.

Chinese embassy spokesperson Zhang Hua said only one Chinese surveillance ship remained at Panatag for "law-enforcement missions."

"The withdrawal of the two ships proves once again China is not escalating the situation in some people's mind, but de-escalating the situation," Zhang said.

On the Philippine side, a Coast Guard ship, the BRP Pampanga, and a Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ship, the BRS 3006, are in the Panatag waters to assist guard, Alcantara said.

Last night, the DFA said that "contrary to the Chinese embassy's claim, two of their vessels—the maritime surveillance ships CMS 71 and FLEC 310—are still in the area, along with five Chinese fishing vessels." The information came from the Coast Guard, it said.

War of millions

In Manila, the science and technology department's Information and Communications Technology Office (ICTO) has summoned Filipino coders against defacing Chinese websites. It said trading barbs online would not help in the government's efforts to ease tensions with China.

Philippine websites have been defaced by Chinese hackers since last week, as netizens took the quarrel between both countries online.

"The worst alleged defacement of foreign websites by local hacker groups is not condoned nor encouraged by the Philippine government," ICTO executive director Louis Casambre said. With a report from Paolo G. Montecillo

Manila firm finds gas in South China Sea

A NATURAL gas discovery in a disputed area in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) vindicates every measure that—initially thought, a Philippine exploration firm said on Tuesday with the new findings likely to further intensify territorial tensions between Beijing and Manila.

The Philippines' Philex Petroleum Corp. said in a disclosure to the stock exchange that the Forum Energy Plc. has a report that "is expected to show an improvement in the resources previously known" in the Sampaguita gas discovery in the Reed Bank, which the government calls Recto Bank.

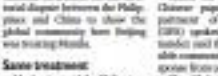
Forum Energy previously said that based on a 3006 study the Sampaguita field had a potential of up to 20 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, or more than five times initial estimates.

It was in this Reed Bank where Chinese navy vessels threatened to ram a survey ship hired by Philex in March last year, sparking tensions that almost halted Forum Energy's work in the area.

The Philippines insists the Reed Bank is well within its territory and not part of the disputed Spratly Islands, believed to be rich in oil and gas and is crossed by important shipping lanes.

Apart from the Sampaguita gas field, 15 other oil and gas exploration sites near the Reed's China Sea are up for grabs. Reuters

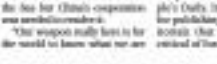
CCTV Systems



Php 9,999 Only

4 SONY CCD CAMERA W/ NIGHT VISION
DVR 16 CH W/ INTERNET VIEW (HDD NOT INCLUDED)
90 METER CABLE W/ BNC

LAPTOP PARTS & REPAIR



2GC/3G TFT FINGERPRINT TIME ATTENDANCE

LAPTOP ADAPTER * KEYBOARD *
LCD SCREEN * BATTERY * MEMORY
HARD DISK * VIDEO REPAIR

NATIONWIDE DELIVERY...

Php 8, 500 Only

hottoyz www.hottoyatech.com

K-12: No more force-feeding

From page A1

school year (SY) 2012-2013. The new curriculum for Grades 1 to 7 (high school year 1) will be implemented in the 2013-2014 school year, and progressively carried out in succeeding school years.

Under K to 12, high school year 11 will be introduced in school year 2016-2017. Grade 12 (high school year 12) will be implemented in school year 2017-2018.

1st batch graduates '18

The first batch of students to go through K to 12 will graduate in March 2018.

A 12-year program is "found to be [the] adequate period for learning and basic education and is a requirement for recognition of professionals abroad," according to the Department of Education.

"The new curriculum will give more Filipino child the necessary skills for his or her century or what they call 21st-century skills," Education Secretary Armin Luistro said in a speech at the launch of the new program.

Odds against PH

In his speech, the President said the Philippines is the only country in Asia and the third in the world that has "other issues" as it strives will adhering to a 10-year basic education cycle.

"Now our Filipino youngster when they already fall short in the number of years they spend studying in school" Right from the start the odds are already against us," he said in Pilipino.

Mr. Aquino said the 10-year basic education program cycle would be supported by "good teaching."

"We will be giving 10 years to enrollees, those and to enter into your system all the lessons. There is no chance for students to accrue knowledge—it's really just basic feeding," he said.

As a result, the lobs time was are being presented well, not being given the proper content, and the implementation not being enforced, he said.

"That's why at times [information] enters one ear and leaves the other. In just a few days, lessons are forgotten," the President said.

'Vehicle' to face world

But with the start of the K to 12 program, the education secretary being given the youth will be of "top quality" and help spur the development of rich and poor alike.

The program will be the "vehicle" for the country to face the world and no challenges, he said.

"Through the K to 12, I am very confident that Juan de la Cruz will be able to progress not only for him and his family but even the nation itself," he said.

The President said that aside from providing the new kind of basic education in the country his administration will continue to correct the shortcomings of the education system, including building more classrooms, improving water facilities and buying more textbooks.

All Pid-based

Mr. Aquino disclosed that the government is ready for all reading materials in public schools will eventually be "tablet-based."

The way if issues are found in the textbooks "we will just ask the review to make the changes," he said.

"We do not need anymore to order the recall of many textbooks," the President said.

Mr. Aquino said Luistro is just waiting for the price of the tablet devices to go down further to "meet our target."

He said the purchase of some of these tablet devices will be sourced by the P228.8 billion budget of the education department this year.

ASTOCA 3 Major Auctions

May 3rd : Online Auction Sale
Late Model Weaving & Sewing Machines

Including; Rapier Weaving Looms, Warping Machines, Raising and Sewing Machines, Laboratory Equipment, Cable Winders, Ultrasonic Welders, Cone Winders etc
Equipment Located in Subic Bay
Contact us for more details
Or Go To www.asiabidco.com

May 4th : Online Auction Sale
Soap Processing and Storage Plant

Including; Soap Plodders, Soap Presses, Mixers, Belt Conveyors, Vacuum Pumps, Silos, Weigh Scales, Stainless Steel Tanks, Stainless Steel Kettles, and Much More.
Equipment Located in
Gateway Business Park, Gen. Trias, Cavite
Contact us for more details
Or Go To www.asiabidco.com

May 10th : Live Public Auction Sale
Equipment from complete factory closure

Including; JSL 150T Injection molder, Lathes, Grinders Milling machines, Shapers, Tooling, Polybag machines, Plastic processing machines, Roto gravour and Flexo graphic printing machines, Slitting machines, Compressors, Tanks, Gensets, Chillers, Over 10000 Copper coated chrome plated rollers, Fire extinguishers, Lab equipment, Gardening equipment, Office furniture and equipment, Scrap metals and machinery Over 600 Lots.

Auction Thursday May 10th Starts at 10.30am.
Viewing: Mon 7th to Wed 9th from 9am to 5pm
At; The Rotoflex Plant, 38 Industrial Avenue Potrero, Malabon City.
Contact us for detailed list of items for sale and location map

Astoca (Philippines) Inc.
Unit 102 Jollibird, 670 EDSA, Pasay City
Tel: 02 853 0421 Email info@astoca.com

AIM Center for Development Management
International Alert

When Angry Publics Collide:

Changing Business Practice in Conflict-Sensitive Areas
28 May - 8 June 2012
Asian Institute of Management, Makati City, Philippines

A 10-day course on political-economic and socio-cultural frameworks for analyses as well tools to help creatively (re)configure relationships and moderating conflict risk to contribute to peace in areas where companies operate or plan to invest.

What will be covered?

- Challenges businesses face in conflict-sensitive areas
- Areas some studies focused on economic and political risk assessment engagement
- Stakeholder analysis and engagement: Who to talk to, why and how
- Strategic negotiation to come up with arrangements agreeable to all parties
- Managing communication to tailor messages for different groups
- Participatory methodologies to work as action plan for the area's conflicts
- Measuring the success of your initiatives

Target Participants

- Senior managers involved in operations of companies in conflict areas
- Senior officers (operational and local development aspects), national government agencies, local government units, and non-government organizations (national) from the Philippines and Southeast Asia

Course Coverage

A. The Intersection of Conflict Issues
B. Strategic Conflict Sensitivity
C. Conflict Analysis
D. Stakeholder Engagement
E. Creating Win-Win Scenarios
F. Managing Communications
G. Creating Non-Violent Spaces

Faculty

International Alert

- Dr. Sandrine Wenkel, Senior Advisor, Philippines Country Director
- Ms. Tamara Dinis, Senior Programme Officer, Inter-Sectoral Programmes
- Ms. Mila Pol Lo de la Rosa, Philippine Programme Manager
- Dr. Markus Mayer, Programme Manager for South & Southeast Asia, London

Asian Institute of Management

- Prof. Jose Miguel M. Luz
- Prof. Victor C. Gardiner
- Prof. Antonio C. Serapio, Jr.
- Prof. Manuel J. de Vera
- Prof. Jocelyn C. Cabrera
- Prof. Ronald U. Mendoza

For inquiries and registration, please contact Ms. Mabou Pizon at (+632) 892-4011 to 20 ext. 139 or email at mpizon@aim.edu / dmp@aim.edu
Visit us at www.cdm.aim.edu

HK to return seized PH turtles

THE HONG KONG government will be returning to the Philippines a shipment of turtles that was found to have been smuggled out of the country and seized by Hong Kong authorities last February.

Twenty Philippine pond turtles (Siebenrockiella leytensis) and 16 Asian box turtles (Cuora aurocapitata) were intercepted and confiscated in three of the Philippines by Hong Kong's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said in a letter to Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) general manager Jose Angel Honrado.

According to Mia Tamerin, regional executive director of the DENR-National Capital Region, the turtles were smuggled from the Philippines to Hong Kong last Feb. 6.

The Philippine pond turtle and Asian box turtle are indigenous to the Philippines.

Both species are protected by Republic Act No. 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act), Tamerin said.

The smuggled turtles, which are expected to arrive in Manila on Friday, will be turned over to the Bureau Customs for Seizure, Forfeiture and Disposition, Nina G. Santos.

Agusan gov off the hook

By Lira B. Saberon

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has dismissed graft charges against Agusan del Sur Gov. Filipo John Amante and three others for allegedly allowing the overextraction of ores in the province.

The antigraft court dismissed the charges after the Ombudsman reversed its initial findings and withdrew the cases, saying that the law on mining quotas had been repealed.

Cleared with Amante were Provincial Engineering Office employee Apolonio Ye and Carlos Perez, and SPI Metals Inc. chief executive Maxwell Ungalia.

The Agusan del Sur officials were accused of violating the antigraft law when they issued ore transport permits in 38 blocks in 2006 and 2007, allowing the company to extract nickel ore above the 50,000-metric ton annual limit.

The Office of the Ombudsman said the graft charges, which were based on Presidential Decree No. 1899 that prescribes an annual production quota of 50,000 MT of ore per mining corporation, no longer had a leg to stand on. This was because the decree had been repealed by the Small Scale Mining Act of 1991.

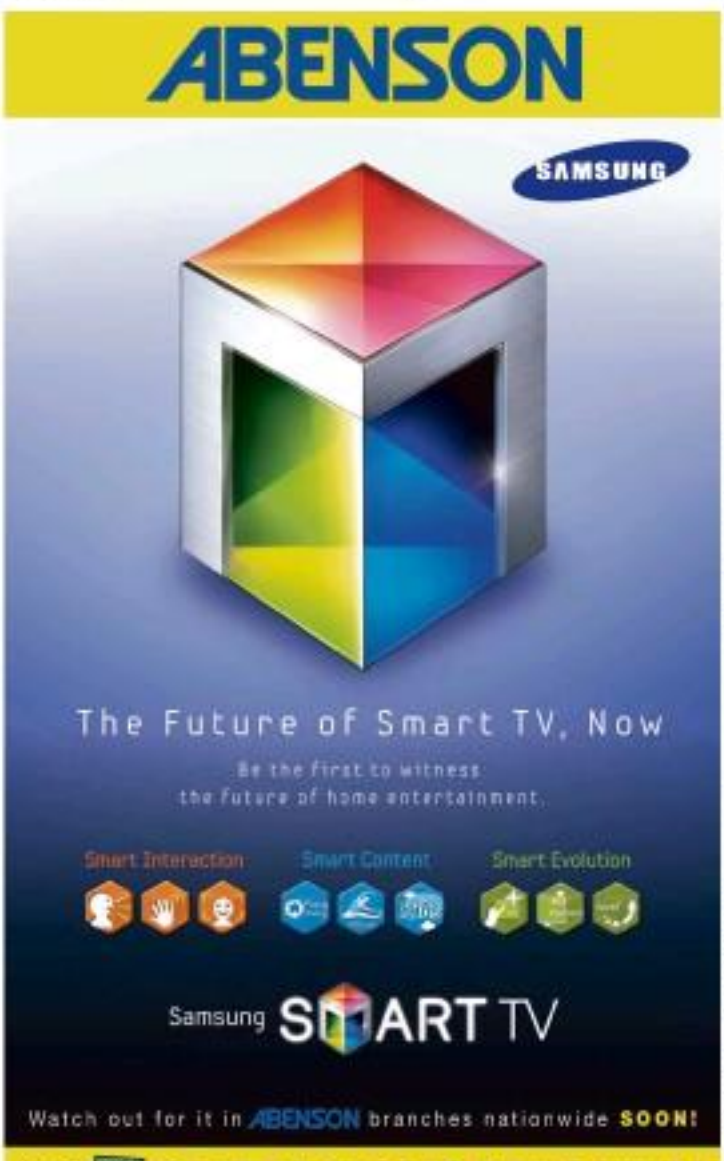
No more quota

The new act did not impose any annual production limit or quota on a corporation and a Department of Justice opinion issued in 2000 reflected the change in policy.

When the accused issued the ore transport permits in 2006 and 2007, the Small Scale Mining law was already in effect, the Ombudsman said.

With the stand taken by the prosecution, the Sandiganbayan's First Division says it is to dismiss the charges.

"The reversal by the prosecution of its previous stand on these cases is well-taken, in view of the new evidence that has come to light during the reinvestigation," it said. The charges were deemed withdrawn and the cases dismissed.



UE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST

The Yearend 2012 HONOR ROLL

AT MANILA AND CALOOCAN

64th Nearest Commencement Rites

Manila Campus

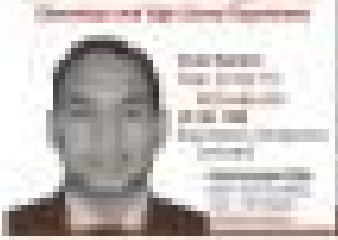
Graduate School • College of Law • College of Dentistry • College of Business Administration • College of Arts and Sciences • College of Education

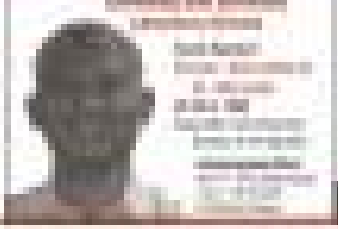
The Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Humanities, Honoris Causa, upon

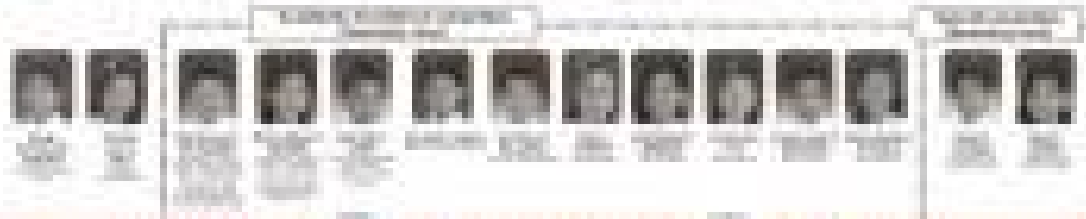
AMBASSADOR HOWARD O. DEE

Eminent Ambassador to the Holy See
Chairman, Asian Development Foundation

Centennial and Commencement Rites
April 26, 2012 (Wednesday) • 9 a.m. • PICC Plenary Hall







UE MANILA | **UE CALOOCAN** | **LEGARDA**

UE in Vivo ASTONISHED! • www.ue.edu.ph • Tomorrow Begins in the East

Facebook: University of the East (UE) | Twitter: @UEAlumni

Pasig rehab body starts cleanup of Palace estero

From page A1

yesterday at a forum sponsored by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Lopez said the DENR could replicate on Estero de San Miguel the success it achieved in Estero de Paco, where residents now enjoy cleaner water and healthier air.

"We want to clean the area behind the seat of power because it is good living close," she said.

"The river is a very important component of a city's genesis. There is no way of accurately measuring the real value of having it back in life," Lopez said.

ADB to help

Metro Manila is expected to reap billions of pesos worth of economic benefits from cleaning up the Pasig and its tributaries, speakers at the forum said.

But beyond economic benefits, rehabilitating the Pasig and the riverside communities would help improve the lives of illegal settlers along the waterways, they said.

Sanjiv Sinha, director general of the ADB's Southeast Asia department, said the bank was especially interested in helping in the Pasig rehabilitation project because that would also alleviate poverty and welfare issues.

Lopez said the national government had committed to fund the rehabilitation project, with President Aquino pledging P16 billion a year until 2016 to finance it. The project would include relocating the illegal settlers, building housing for the relocated families and cleaning the esteros.

Private companies are also pledging investments in the commercial areas to be opened up by the rehabilitation, Lopez said.

"We need private investors and the water concessionaires of Metro Manila. It's a good thing they are pitching in," Lopez said.

Lopez said estimates in a study of Estero de Paco showed the community's savings could reach P116 billion over 20 years. The local government would be able to save P1 billion over the same period, she added.

Like Estero de Paco, Estero de San Miguel and other tributaries near the presidential palace—such as Estero de San Sebastian, Estero de Quinpo, Estero de UN-30 and Estero de Aviles—would be rid of flooding much. The tributaries would also be dredged to improve water flow.

Trees and plants will be planted along the banks to filter the waters. A park will also be built on the banks. But Lopez said the community would have to guard the esteros to discourage residents from throwing garbage into the river.

Lopez also said they would have to relocate dwellers living right on the banks as the law does not allow structures within 3 meters of the easement.

Benefits are real

Whether one believes in Chinese geomancy or not, the benefits of cleaning up Metro Manila's waterways are real, she said.

Having a clean waterway has led to a massive improvement in the quality of life of residents on Estero de Paco, a study showed. The area did not experience floods last year, sparing residents of expenses in evacuating.

Crime also went down by 50 percent in the seven barangays surrounding the esteros and business environment improved, according to the study.

Lopez said the study also projected that land values in the area could rise to P50,000 per square meter in 10 years. Right now, a square meter of land there is valued at around P5,000. For the local government, this would mean higher land taxes and business activity on the banks of the esteros.

48 esteros

The community is also saving P49 million a year from reduced medical expenses because residents are less threatened by those environments now the primary cause of respiratory diseases among residents.

"Maybe it is psychological due to a more healthy environment. But there is a significant improvement in the health of residents along the esteros," Lopez said.

Aside from Estero de Paco, Estero de San Miguel and Estero de Pandacan, the PRRC also plans to clean up other esteros in Manila, Makati, Quezon City, Taguig, San Juan and Mandaluyong.

Officials said the rehabilitation of the Pasig River system would ease flooding in Metro Manila as the river serves as one of the natural outlets for floodwaters.

"We have 46 esteros plus the Pasig River, and we have the Manila Bay and Laguna Lake. Imagine, the esteros and rivers would be made clean," Lopez said.

My FARES love!

Low, low fares for the love of travel!

Sale Period: Apr. 24 – 26, 2012 or until seats last • Travel Period: Jun. 1 – Aug. 31, 2012

DOMESTIC SEAT SALE

₱288 Manila to Cauayan (Isabela), Laoag, Legazpi, Naga, San Jose (Mindoro), Tuguegarao or Virac; Cebu to Clark

₱488 Manila to Coron (Busuanga) or Puerto Princesa; Cebu to Legazpi or Puerto Princesa

INTERNATIONAL SEAT SALE

₱888 Manila to Kuala Lumpur

₱1,488 Manila to Brunei, Singapore or Siem Reap (NEW!); Cebu to Singapore

₱1,088 Manila to Kota Kinabalu, Ho Chi Minh or Hanoi (NEW!); Cebu to Bangkok

₱1,888 Manila to Bangkok or Jakarta

DOMESTIC

₱488	Cebu to Bacolod or Dumaguete; Manila to Caticlan or Iloilo
₱588	Cebu to Caticlan, Iloilo, Kalibo, Surigao, Tacloban or Zamboanga (NEW!)
₱688	Manila to Bacolod or Cebu; Cebu to Butuan
₱788	Manila to Davao, Tacloban or Tuguegarao; Cebu to Davao
₱988	Manila to Kalibo; Cebu to Iloilo
₱1,088	Manila to Butuan (CEB/5J) or Dumaguete; Cebu to Butuan, Caticlan, Kalibo, Pagadian or Zamboanga; Davao to Zamboanga
₱1,288	Cebu to Siargao
₱1,488	Manila to Cagayan de Oro, Davao or Zamboanga
₱1,788	Manila to Calbayog, Ozamiz, General Santos, Dipolog or Surigao
₱1,888	Manila to Butuan or Pagadian

INTERNATIONAL

₱899	Cebu to Hong Kong
₱999	Cebu to Macau
₱1,899	Manila to Guangzhou or Taipei; Cebu to Hong Kong
₱2,499	Manila to Hong Kong, Macau or Shantou (NEW!); Cebu to Hong Kong (NEW!)
₱3,999	Manila to Beijing, Busan, Incheon or Shanghai; Cebu to Busan or Incheon
₱5,999	Manila to Osaka

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Domestic and Promo are one way with limited availability and non-refundable. Valid fares are inclusive of 1 kg hand-carry baggage/allowance and exclusive of check-in baggage, government taxes, fees and fuel surcharge. Baggage from Php 300 Php 699 for domestic routes and $10 $40 for international routes. Visit cebupacificair.com for more and conditions of carriage apply and are available online at http://www.cebupacificair.com/About/Pages/Terms-and-Conditions.aspx

For your convenience, flight changes, booking of unused baggage allowance for your check-in baggage and web check-in services can be made up to 4 hours before your scheduled flight.

Look for us at SM malls in Manila, Cebu, Davao and Iloilo and other key cities and travel agents near you.

Like us on facebook.com/cebupacificair

Follow us on twitter.com/CebuPacificAir

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

Seller Pacific accepts BDO, MasterCard and Visa Pay-Credit Card payments through

BDO

'Don't Stop ...'

From page A6

But those YouTube clips eventually earned Pineda an audition that took Asian Journey whose hits of the 1980s include "When I Crying Mine" and "Open Arms," and forward on to the online Filipino singer in an unlikely career trajectory that is now part of Journey lore.

A book inside Pineda's bag is Sama and his struggles with rock 'n' roll stardom are the subject of a documentary that is playing at the movie's Tribeca Film festival.

"Don't Stop Believin'" is named after the band's hit anthem, serving the background of its success, and it represents Pineda's own inspirational rise from tagging on the streets in Manila to singing around the world in large stadiums packed with fans.

Pineda, whose Filipino background initially surprised Journey fans who longed for the voice of Steve Perry, told Philippine Star Pineda's fan account when everything turned on him.

"It was actually very difficult because, as we all know, I am not this Hollywood guy who looks good and built," he said.

"But the other side of me says saying, this means needs to be seen by a lot of people out there who have been listening to Journey or Journey body to get recognized with their talents, with their God-given things they have in themselves."

Highs and lows

The documentary follows Pineda from his nervous first audition to being on the Journey tour bus and reveals some more events with the band. Audiences see how Pineda handled the fame backstage before a show, offstage signing autographs and onstage, sometimes while sick, on a grueling first tour in which he knew had no idea what to expect.

"It was difficult. We all have our limits, we get tired and whether we like it or not, we would feel fishy or not comfortable at some point. We just wanted our time alone. But since we signed up for it, whether we liked it or not we have to face the camera," Pineda said.

The second part, he said, was the constant traveling without the family, being detached and trying to "sound golden all the time." "But he adds that it was uplifting" when you see these fans, smiling, happy hugging each other, crying when they hear their favorite songs."

It is difficult to know from watching "Don't Stop Believin'" whether Pineda, now 44, hit it off well with his new bandmates.

He said that while on tour they share stories, but time again—several members of the band's current lineup are in their 50s and 60s—ensure they often had different interests in life. Pineda called the Journey music their "common denominator."

Biggest fear

Some critics said the film does capture the band's rejuvenation. Not unlike Journey itself, "Don't Stop Believin'" tells a story but mainstream notes, resonating emotionally even (or especially) through cliches. Certainly the film makes sense for the validity of the reinvention band," wrote the critic Tim Khan business publication Variety.

One of Pineda's biggest fears was bringing to Journey's most famous lead singer, Perry, now 63, who left the band in 1987 and reclaimed his throne years in 1986.

"I had to convince them I was the real deal," Pineda said, who has two children throughout the Philippines and in Hong Kong but grew up his solo career when the Journey call came.

"This was the hardest thing that I have done in my life. Though I've had my share of hardships," he said.

Hard times

Pineda's hard times include losing homeless by a time and bragging for money on Manila's streets. He struggled with drugs and alcohol, and the filmmakers take him and his bandmates to some of his old Manila haunts in "Don't Stop Believin'."

The film mostly is not about Pineda's hard-lucky and will start again in July. Pineda is spending most of his time in Manila, where he has three boys and is expecting a baby girl in July with his wife.

In the Philippines, his fame now is widespread. He is shown in the film meeting former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I try to remember the color as much as possible," he said, even though he is considerably approached by fans for photographs, pop talks and events. "I tell myself, it makes them happy so why shouldn't I give it."

And most of all, he wants his fans to inspire everyone. "Life begins at 40," he said. "That's what they say."

Reuters

Ruling shows independence of President's 3 appointees in SC

Transcript A1

A Malacañang spokesperson bragged off from giving a reaction to the Supreme Court ruling on the legal issues owned by Mr. Aquino's family.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said the Palace had not yet read the high court's decision on the validation of the land.

"We will defer to the Office of the Solicitor General and the Department of Agrarian Reform on this," Valte said in a text message to reporters.

Waiver payment

Reyes Mayor Rep. Teodoro Quirko said that while the court decision to peg just compensation to the 1989 valuation instead of the present market price was praiseworthy, the Cojuangcos should just waive payment.

"The Cojuangcos should just agree to distribute the land for free since the Cojuangco family had already profited several times over from the land since 1956. Sir (President Aquino) said it was the farm workers' turn to benefit from the land. If agrarian reform is indeed social justice then a P1 compensation for the Cojuangcos would suffice," said Quirko.

Effect on Corona

A defense lawyer of Chief Justice Renato Corona said the court decision may have a positive effect on the public perception of the Chief Justice, who has claimed that Mr. Aquino pushed for his impeachment because the Supreme Court ruled in November 2011 to distribute the hacienda to farm workers.

However, Rico Paolo Quicho said that the high tribunal's ruling would not have a direct effect on Corona's impeachment trial in the Senate.

"The Supreme Court's decision is a collegial decision and has nothing to do with the impeachment of the Chief Justice," Quicho said in a text message.

Asked if the tribunal's ruling would have any positive effect on Corona, Quicho said: "Yes. It showed that he is upholding the rule of law and it can afford to face the consequence for fighting for what is right."

"The independence of the judiciary must be protected and respected," he added.

Tranquil Salvador III, also of the defense, said he believed the high court "decided based on the merits of the case, that being the mandate of the Constitution."

CJ's counter-attack?

Three senators said everyone should respect the court decision even as they refused to connect this to the impeachment trial of Corona.

"I refuse to impute malicious or other partisan political motives. It has nothing to do with the impeachment. Definitely, that is what I would like to believe," said Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

He condemned against politicizing a program that was supposed to benefit farmers.

"Is this the Chief Justice's counter attack? When you talk of the implementation of a very important law, Caspar, we should not inflict partisan politics on the program," said Honasan, referring to the Cojuangco-owned Agrarian Reform Extension with Reform.

The senator was on the floor of the passage of Caspro in 2009, which extended for another five years the land acquisition and distribution program of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Centerpiece

As the chair of the Senate committee on agrarian reform, the senator was the main sponsor of the Senate version of the measure.

Honasan noted that agrarian reform was the "centerpiece program of the administration of the mother of the President."

"The high court is the last has ruled. According to the law, each party is authorized a motion for reconsideration. We now have to respect the decision of the highest court of land. So we're hoping that with reason's reasoning in the Caspro this will set the tone for the full implementation of the law," said the senator.

Sen. Ralu Diamond was not inclined to link the high court ruling to the pending impeachment case of the Chief Justice.

"As long as the (Supreme Court's) did not change the doctrine, we should not put any ulterior motive into the decision, or malicious motive in the decision. The doctrine really is that the fair market value should be fixed at that time of the taking (at the land subject to agrarian reform)," said Pimentel.

Sen. Pia Cayetano said that as a lawyer she was called upon to respect decisions of the high court. "I haven't read (the decision), so I can't comment on the merits, on the details," said Cayetano.

She begged off from commenting on whether the ruling had something to do with the impeachment trial.

"I don't know ... our issues here are already controversial. Let's not link them to those things," said Cayetano.

Be vigilant

The militant farmers' group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas hailed the Supreme Court decision as it urged farmers to be vigilant amid the awarded land.

"The Supreme Court decision is a big leap forward for the Lubita farm workers and the Filipino peasantry's life-and-death struggle for genuine agrarian reform," said Danilo Erbano, KMP deputy secretary general.

"Their Lubita farmers victory will serve as an inspiration to other farmers to continue with the struggle," Erbano said.

"But the thousands Lubita farmers and farm workers must remain vigilant and frustrate every maneuver of the Cojuangcos to commercially dump (farm of their hard-won victory," the KMP leader said.

"Mr. Aquino must immediately abide by the high court's decision to distribute Hacienda Lubita and direct his family to let go of the Hacienda," said Erbano. PATS report from Christine G. Avendaño and Kristine L. Alave

LONG WAIT OVER. A worker uses newly harvested sugarcane stalks in Barangay Mabiling, Concepcion, Tarlac, inside Hacienda Lubita in this photo taken on Nov. 24, 2011. —LYNDON SU

Anniversary SALE
24 April - 26 May 2012
up to 50% off on selected items
KUYSEN
Participating outlets:
QC1: Kamagong Center Avenue, Brgy. San Antonio, Quezon City. Tel. (+632) 745 7000 / (+632) 411-2011. BC: Harper House, Bonifacio Avenue, Port Residence, Subic Bay, Tel. (+047) 811-2010. Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Tel. (+047) 252-3000. Tarlac: Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City. Tel. (+045) 491-2000. Nueva Ecija: Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. Tel. (+044) 600-2000. Pampanga: Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga. Tel. (+045) 599-2000. Bataan: Mariveles, Bataan. Tel. (+047) 811-2010. Cavite: Tagaytay City, Cavite. Tel. (+046) 483-2000. Batangas: Batangas City, Batangas. Tel. (+043) 723-2000. Laguna: Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Tel. (+049) 541-2000. Pangasinan: Urdaneta City, Pangasinan. Tel. (+075) 568-2000. Isabela: Cauayan City, Isabela. Tel. (+078) 652-2000. Cagayan: Tuguegarao City, Cagayan. Tel. (+078) 844-2000. Albay: Legazpi City, Albay. Tel. (+052) 742-2000. Iloilo: Iloilo City, Iloilo. Tel. (+033) 320-2000. Cebu: Cebu City, Cebu. Tel. (+032) 412-2000. Davao: Davao City, Davao del Sur. Tel. (+082) 224-2000. Cagayan de Oro: Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental. Tel. (+088) 856-2000.
For more information, please call 411-2011 or email info@kuysen.com
www.kuysen.com

SONY
make.believe
sonymobile.com/imagination
made to create
made to rock
made to watch
made of imagination
Xperia™ S - The first Sony smartphone.
12MP camera with Exmor R™ | 4.3" HD Reality display with Mobile BRAVIA® Engine
720 HD front camera | 1.5 GHz dual core | 32 GB internal memory
XPERIA

Experience it FREE in an SM Cyberzone near you!
April 19 - 24 ... SM Megamall UGF Bldg. B
April 26 - May 1 ... SM Cyberzone Cebu
May 3 - 8 ... SM Mall of Asia
May 10 - 15 ... SM Cyberzone North Edsa
May 17 - 22 ... SM Cyberzone Pampanga
SUPERMALLS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Artistic 'dagdag-bawas'

THE LAST time the National Artist Awards became the talk of the town, it left a bitter taste in the mouth. That was in 2006, when then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo virtually thrashed an honors system designed, in its grandeur says, to embody "the utmost highest ideals in humanism and aesthetic experience through the distinct achievements of individual visionaries," with a display of patronage politics at its most crass and sordid.

EDITORIAL

That year, the bodies tasked to administer the awards, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines, jointly recommended four names to the cabinet-creation pantheon: composer Ramon Santos, painter Federico Aguilar Alcuaz, the late Tagalog novelist Lualhati Francisco and the late filmmaker Manuel Conde. However, instead of bowing to the time-honored principle of rigorous vetting and selection by the NCCA and CCP in consultation with other leading artists, culture workers and experts—Arroyo crossed out Santos and added four names of her own choosing: hostile writer and "nanunuya" filmmaker Carlo J. Caparas, then presidential adviser on arts and culture Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, fashion designer Pitoy Moreno and architect Francisco Mañosa.

Moreno and Mañosa more or less emerged unscathed from the uproar that followed, which focused on Caparas, who many felt was flatly unqualified for the award, and Guidote-Alvarez, whose case as the founder of the Philippine Educational Theater Association, one of the country's most important and established theater companies, could be argued—except that her position as NCCA executive director and presidential adviser on culture and arts made her conflict-of-interest exclusion in the slate list patently self-serving and unethical.

Arroyo's unprecedented move was stopped dead in its tracks only by a Supreme Court injunction ordering Malacañang not to proceed with the conferment of titles. That resolution, which ordered all sides to observe the status quo until the high court could rule on the dispute, came down on Aug. 25, 2006—or two years and eight months ago. So far, nothing more has been heard of the case. Arroyo's "dagdag-bawas" batch of National Artist appointees remains in limbo, unfortunately; they have also dragged with them the legitimate and truly qualified nominees who would have had much to gain from legal mark, deprived of the Ramon Magsaysay Award-like honor.

It's against this scary background that recent developments, which have brought talk of the National Artist Awards back to the public consciousness, should be weighed against. Batchdad City Boy, Anthony Galen got the chance going when he filed a resolution seeking the proclamation of actress Nora Aunor as National Artist. Perhaps more than of Aunor's most enduring screen rival, House Deputy Speaker Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada's then called for Aunor, who has transitioned from actress to successful politician as the current governor of Batangas province, to likewise be declared one. The petitions immediately spat of a hubbub, with some members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines even getting in on the act by publicly hurting for their favored hero.

Is it Aunor and Santos' time to be conferred the National Artist medallion? Perhaps, but as Sen. Jinggoy Estrada pointed out, a few others might be more deserving of it at this point—the nation's "Comedy King," for instance, because "Dolphy is overdue for this award. We should give him that recognition while he is still with us." There is also to Eddie Garcia, another cinema giant whose extraordinarily versatile and decades-long body of work goes much further than either Santos' or Aunor's.

The larger point is, whether it's Dolphy or Garcia or Aunor or Santos, let their construction or eventual selection be the product of transparent, objective and conscientious appraisal, and not, like the last time, the current spoon of political servants bent by way of presidential fiat. The scandal involving Caparas and Guidote-Alvarez has shown how governmental abuse can tarnish even the field of arts and culture—a domain that's supposed to thrive, often against daunting odds given this country's chronic indifference to it, for what's edifying and truthful in the nation's soul.

The last round of National Artist proceedings may still be ruined in supplementaries, but now is an opportunity for Malacañang to make sure that the process of recognizing the country's greatest artists once again lends real honor to them, to their legacies, and to the nation they've nourished with their gifts.

Developers, please spare those trees

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Ramon Paje said last week that the government should not to too hasty in selling government land to private developers. Since the land becomes private property, by the owner can do anything with it, including cutting all trees, he said. Wrong.

There is a law that requires a private landowner to secure the permission of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources before he can legally cut even just a single tree within his property. Therefore, MR Regalado will needs DENR permission to plant a one-old tree within property that it is developing. It was Bill Bagatsing's desire to cut or transfer 162 pine trees in its property the size of the old Pines Hotel before it was cutting his land that lasted him a quick checkers around all the time.

Think of it. 162 pine trees, the symbol of Baguio, would have been allowed to be given away to a parking lot when the lot would be much nicer with so many trees and vehicles parked under their shade where they are protected from the heat of the sun. But 500 developers have a one-track mind: They think only of taking land and putting up buildings. I've parking lots and on them to earn more money, for MR will still earn money from parking with the trees there to shelter the parked vehicles. But the developers do not want to see that. They want only to cut down as much and build the parking lot on stone land because it is so much easier to do it that way.

As for government officials, they can only the money they would be realized and the enjoyment they would get from the sale, not the assurance of hundreds of trees and the permanent beauty they would bring.

Think of it: the Quezon City government wanted to cut down all the trees at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center and turn the park into a commercial area as part of the planned business and commercial district. Fortunately, the DENR opposed this bonehead idea.

Haven't we had enough of shopping malls and twelve parks?

Gus-tice for Gus

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

Back to the environment Secretary Paje. He said he has submitted to his patient in the Baguio regional hospital the name trees and told them to look for transplantation instead. It's the same instance. Trees that big and transplanted have very little chances of surviving. Their mortality rate will be very high, according to tree experts. It is as if the patient to cut was not withdrawal out all. I find it odd right to issue permits to and trees should be withdrawal from the DENR because in the Philippines, any permit can be secured from government agencies if the price is right. Like the wood lobby has, there should be a moratorium on the cutting of trees, private or public, declared by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The DPWH is set to cut 2,300 trees for the widening of the Tarlac-Pangasinan Road. Hundreds of years have already been cut in the widening of the Macarthur Highway. Like the private developers, the DPWH seems to be cut, cut, cut because it is easier to do it this way.

In other countries, when a road must have a tree, the road is made to go around the tree...and their citizens appreciate that. Driving to a road like that is as much a scenic experience.

In the Philippines, the C-9 Gregorio Road behind the University of the Philippines in Diliman, the road was made to go behind the trees. Here is not for the opposition of 107 students and environmentalists, those trees would have been cut down.

Whenever trees are cut and noted with the choice of cutting down a tree or letting it be, shows remember Joyce Kilmer's poem: "Any fool can cut a tree; but only God can make a tree."

Developers, please spare those trees

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Ramon Paje said last week that the government should not to too hasty in selling government land to private developers. Since the land becomes private property, by the owner can do anything with it, including cutting all trees, he said. Wrong.

There is a law that requires a private landowner to secure the permission of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources before he can legally cut even just a single tree within his property. Therefore, MR Regalado will needs DENR permission to plant a one-old tree within property that it is developing. It was Bill Bagatsing's desire to cut or transfer 162 pine trees in its property the size of the old Pines Hotel before it was cutting his land that lasted him a quick checkers around all the time.

Think of it. 162 pine trees, the symbol of Baguio, would have been allowed to be given away to a parking lot when the lot would be much nicer with so many trees and vehicles parked under their shade where they are protected from the heat of the sun. But 500 developers have a one-track mind: They think only of taking land and putting up buildings. I've parking lots and on them to earn more money, for MR will still earn money from parking with the trees there to shelter the parked vehicles. But the developers do not want to see that. They want only to cut down as much and build the parking lot on stone land because it is so much easier to do it that way.

As for government officials, they can only the money they would be realized and the enjoyment they would get from the sale, not the assurance of hundreds of trees and the permanent beauty they would bring.

Think of it: the Quezon City government wanted to cut down all the trees at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center and turn the park into a commercial area as part of the planned business and commercial district. Fortunately, the DENR opposed this bonehead idea.

Haven't we had enough of shopping malls and twelve parks?

SEN LACSON once lamely declared us:

"Without a news appointment, I cannot refer a homicide committee chief.

"It is common knowledge among senators, Malacañang officials, and some members of the Lower House that Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Justice Undersecretary Ernesto Perez, Chairman of the Commission on Appointments, will reject the confirmation of any and all interim appointments in consideration of the Commission on Elections. As such, Malacañang explained to me that they thought it best not to nominate any appointee to replace me since one from losing to go through the ordeal of a confirmation hearing where I could be rejected. I truly appreciate their concern and, initially, I also thought that that would be best. However, after thinking about it the last few days, I am more convinced that I would much prefer to resign my seat, sir, go through the confirmation process despite the risk of a rejection."

I'm elated that Gus Lagman has decided to challenge the president against him—yes, president, I said it right—Noynoy Aquino. Not just self-respect and dignity—which Binay just self-respect and do. It would have been one of character if he didn't. He has given us the courage, the has never lacked for principle. He has never lacked for backing his side.

Why is Gus Lagman, one of the few honest people in government, challenging Noynoy in 2016? Why is Gus Lagman, one of the few people dealing with elections who have been to count, almost certain to be rejected by the Commission on Appointments? Why is Gus Lagman, one of the fewest people who understand IT and can make sure it is used to enforce the votes will and not thwart it, pretty much doomed to not have a say in how the Comelec runs elections?

Because he is all of the above and more pure knuckhead.

More specifically, because Anacleto Emilio, who, as the head of the Commission on Appointments, is among other duties, and Emilio is pissed off with him. He still owes specifically because Juan Ponce Enrile is also the presiding officer in the impeachment trial of Renato Corona, and Malacañang doesn't want it open him off.

Emilio is pissed off with Lagman because he pretends, and assures, Lagman is closer chummy to the 1987 elections. Specifically, of voting the Mitchell to a community with the Tomadors in about the Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) of its place in the era, or Senate. Proof of this apparently was a program used by Mamboldt that prescribed how choosing was to be done, to right of which were supplied by the opposition. Mitchell has repeatedly withdrawn that was unfortunate, saying its computers were submerged by a couple of volunteers who told me engineered program to in downtown so they might claim fraud.

Emilio apart from that, why in God's name would you need to have GMA? GMA was the party that consisted of Marcos loyalists. In 1987, when the public still needed with rage over martial law, GMA had only two candidates who could possibly win, who were Joseph Estrada and Emilio himself. They did in fact win.

Otherwise, would you need to elevate, in the aborgloria of Bilibi, Arroyo Tolentino, Blas Ople, Victoria Pepito, Ed Ermita, Romeo Arbosa, Rene Espina, Wilson Gamboa, Pimentel the Legislator, and the other characters there?

Duh! Considering he is the end of his days, Emilio's franchise ratio of Emilio and 2,000 votes in 2005, estimated estimated that it was Emilio who had diamond lists of his post on the throne. A thing he spent the rest of his idiocracy like trying to prove, in the end foolishly. It's interesting because Emilio's commander-in-arms in the 1986 People Power revolt, Enrile incurred, would find himself in the same boat less than a decade later. He would accuse Erap of cheating him of the last seat in the Senate by way of rigging returns. And end up

Founding Chair: Eugenio D. Apostol

Publisher: Isaac Tanny

Editor in Chief: Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc

Managing Editor: Joaquin "Chino" D. Sicangco

Opinion Editor: Rosario S. Garcellano

Associate Editor for Online: Anselmo S. Navarro

News Editor: Michael P. Bandong Jr. • Chief, Philippine Star Operations: Nelly R. Pichay

Chief, Business Desk: Rosanna R. Bautista

News Assistant Editors: Florentino B. Bautista Jr.

Sports Desk Editor: Juan F. Gallaga Jr.

Editor at Consultant: Armando Doronila

Art & Design Director: Lopez A. Valdez

Board Chair: Hans B. Pery

President: Raymundo Punzalan

Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing: Ernesto R. Rondon

Vice President for Advertising: Felix R. Chanco

Vice President for Operations: Gino A. Gatti

Vice President for Finance: Jose R. Pallanca

AVP for Circulation: Rhoda Agnes B. Tanchi IV

Corporate Affairs Manager: Carmen B. Aglugub

All rights reserved. No part of this material may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without the written permission of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, except for brief quotations in critical articles or reviews.

Some things don't mix

JOSE VALDEZ (with Isabelle Ople) Bonifacio Day Award Winner of the Philippines' 16 wealthiest internet power and security plan. Chief among them are that the various insurgent groups in the Philippines are unlikely to be broken by force alone, that better standards of living can curb the roots of the rebellion, and that the military could do more to "professionalize" its ground operations. But in "marketing these truths into practice, something seems to have gotten mangled along the way. The AFP's practice of raising soldiers with schools simply illustrates this incongruence.

Philippine Army paratroopers using schools for military purposes, for the past few months, I found in 1 trained schools, from southern Luzon to Mindanao that the AFP is using school grounds and classrooms as military bases and barracks, sometimes temporarily, but at times for half a year or longer.

Such use of schools used to be driven by the soldiers' environment, as school buildings provided the safety and comfort of solid walls and dry roofs. But increasingly, the presence of troops on school property is made a being justified on the grounds of providing development projects to the schools and their communities. This is because Oplan Bayanihan mandates the military to undertake "development" outside of protecting the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to take on a "support role to the government building efforts of the national government," under the guise of peace and development.

When I visited Barangay High School in Mamasapano, Province in Maguindanao, the soldiers encamped on the school's land and an adjacent plot had provided free labor to construct a new brick chair for the school's nurse. A sergeant at the school council of that town presence of school grounds was "against the law," but said it was justified by the assistance to the school and freedom it was "with our aim" of "civil affairs."

In Inopacan, soldiers from the 94th Infantry Battalion camped across the road from Paradise Indian H.S., temporary School put up a sign to declare the their distribution of books and reconstruction assistance was part of its "School is School Program." But all of the local community appear to have returned the evidence. Two city councilors, including the chair of the council's committee on education, sponsored a resolution calling on the Department of Education, Philippine Elementary School to withdraw its Mindanao, a teacher described to me the reports carried out by soldiers to classrooms in 2011 to "one of the few good things that have come out of this conflict." But the operations of when the troops had continued to sleep in some of the school's classrooms and to the students' learning for another seven months after its completion by the troops, all the while serving on elections fell that the school felt "too shy" to ask the soldiers to pay.

Underscoring the issue principle appreciate are to accuses that the operations they say that few of the principals I interviewed felt they had any power to oppose the troops' presence or even their choice of projects. This lack of endorsement clarifies the claim that such projects are providing any noticeable development assistance.

If the government wants to increase development assistance to remote, under-served communities, that is to be applauded. But it is important to remember that there are already government agencies that are supposed to be carrying out these functions, and that have the capacity, skills, and expertise to do so more effectively, more efficiently, and more safely. If schools need repairs, the Department of Education should be responsible. If a rural community needs a medical mission, it is the Department of Health's job. If remote infrastructure needs to be addressed, that is the province of the Department of Public Works and Highways. If economic interventions are the responsibility of the National Economic Office, and around the country, parents, teachers, students, and community members successfully manage to twenty away the soldiers for the annual brigada eskuela, without the help of armed forces.

It seems to us dangerous that the regular civilian government structures cannot safely provide these services, due to the fact that students need to be out there to interact this insecurity to their school grounds.

Schools should be a protected space for children, where the government's only priority should be ensuring that children receive equality education. Yet the presence of soldiers endangers students and teachers and disrupts learning. In choosing their targets, the insurgent groups might not distinguish between soldiers about to go on patrol and those teaching a school's republic students. Students told me they resented about how students often interact with the soldiers, including handing them weapons. Teachers also expressed concerns about the soldiers coaching students to run errands for the detachment, and drinking alcohol, making loud noises, and keeping pornography on school grounds.

To these military projects mentioned by a desire to enhance appreciation of the armed forces as part of its internal security plan are inherently politicized by a strategic military purpose. Military development projects, as we should need to be part of that plan. Simply requiring the law would be an easy first step if the Philippine armed forces are truly concerned with winning the support of their fellow citizens.

Jose Maquiral is a senior children's rights researcher at Human Rights Watch. He has investigated violations of schools in the Philippines, Thailand, India, and Yemen.

Nice people

"TOP GOOK middle," my 6-year-old was proclaimed. I agreed, and used the opportunity to explain to him that when you drive, you usually move up and down, and not from one side to the middle, down.

For nearly a month now, I've been turning toward like a headless chicken with the usual trials and tribulations of the end of the schoolyear: exams, term papers, theses, dissertations, student appeals to graduate, and then moving on to attending college graduation after graduation. So, last Friday I just had to drive sideways, downing up at my college campus running from three bonding like some disgruntled student had pandemonium. Even worse, on Sunday morning, right before the university commencement exercises, I agreed reported this cold over it shaving so I ended up at our store like the walking dead, not quite in the mood to talk to anyone.

Our bodies have ways of telling us to slow down, mainly by shutting us do silly things. The getting the point, and have committed to many meetings and talks so I can have more time for myself and the family. I also thought I'd do right columns this week. As I go into my 11th year of "Pinoy Kasi"—I started out in May 1997—I thought I'd do segments a "nice people" column, talking about the occasional encounters with people who go out of their way to be gracious.

Spa

I was tempted to call them "nice people overall," which was a term used, together with "no permanent address," to refer to the New People's Army whose members were not all for their discipline and, well, being nice to people. But I thought "nice people" will do as well. The idea for a nice people interest came, unexpectedly, when I was looking for a book where I could pay my income taxes. The airport chair is unpleasant in itself, but made more difficult because it's so hard paying your taxes. You'd think the government would make it less painful, but no. Bureau of Internal Revenue offices are always jampacked, and no one seems to have tolled books are authorized to accept payments.

I checked the Internet, found a list from the BIR, and near all to Ortigas Avenue in Greenhills, near Boni, where there's a row of banks. Two of the banks that appeared on the list said they were no longer accepting BIR payments. Then I spotted a United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB). It was on the BIR list, but I wasn't sure if it was just or exactly the same branch a few years back. I still remember how the guard groaned when I asked if the bank was accepting BIR payments, and the teller who glared at me and told me to fill out a form, which I turned out to be the wrong one. When I finally got it right she scowled and scribbled another stapling my documents. "Typical government clerk," I grumbled to myself.

Did I mean to ask post-traumatic stress syndrome this time? I trudged and strolled the entire mall and walked in. After filtering like it, I wanted to exclaim. The guard didn't do the morning-time "Good morning, Sir/Mam" and instead asked what I needed. When I told him I needed to pay my income tax he pulled out one of the bank forms for me to fill out. I did, and then went to the teller to submit. Now he gave me a number and asked me to take a seat.

He later first. Instead, the bank has nice soft-cushioned seats scattered around, with the ambience of a small local lobby. I took one seat, ready for a long wait, but no, it was only a few minutes before I was called. The teller smiled and took the forms. The BIR had a new form with its boxes neatly arranged and not crammed as if the teller grumbled. Better yet, she processed everything within a few minutes and handed back my copy.

Hope for government

I wasn't sure anymore if this was UCPB, and asked to see the bank manager. Teresa Tinsoya, who was even more congenial as I thanked her for the UCPB was still a government bank and she said yes, and that they were doing a facelift to all their branches, and is training staff for better customer service. The sites opened and smiled emerged with bouquets and flashes, singing set, "Hallelujah, there's hope, there's hope for government agencies!"

I thought of my own college at UP and of discovering, when I first went to the registrar's office, that I was looking for a nice people.

I brought in a sofa, chairs, newspapers and coffee, and people were incredulous. Now I'm working on the stuff, getting them to smile more, look at visitors straight in the eye, and hand over, and not throw, things. Now I think they're overdoing it, being nice even to people who don't deserve niceness, like some students and aggressive salesmen.

A few days after UCPB I was at the Ninoy Aquino International airport parking to catch a flight and worrying about my kids and family. At the check in counter I was asked for my authorization to enter Taiwan. I had done this online, and printed it out. The problem was I didn't bring it.

But I knew I had an electronic copy in my laptop so I asked around about accessing it online, but it was like one headless chicken asking other headless chickens for help. Until one of the staff, Shiny Ann del Pilar, very kindly offered to help, and had a brilliant idea. She told me I could get on Binh's Wi-Fi to e-mail the file from my computer to her account, and she would print it out. When I went to another check-in counter to be permitted to, and I managed to find a Wi-Fi, and then, because Shiny Ann did not have a working Wi-Fi with me.

It worked out and this time, there was only one target and that was Mary Ann and instead of transport I could hear the song it was "The Sound of Music." And guys, "Somewhere in my youth or childhood, I must have done something good."

Heaven is contagious. In Taiwan I had one more mishap. Globe didn't activate my roaming and I free hours before I was due to return to Manila. I called them twice, quite irritated, but because they had since call center operator handling my complaint. I calmed down and in the end, I thought it was just to end I didn't have roaming because I wasn't hooked up to anyone in Manila.

Because it's good for business as well. After the UCPB encounter, I checked the Internet to look at its services and products and was surprised to find that it did have a good line up. I checked independent websites and found good reviews of its financial products. Here the best product loans wasn't across anything unless you have pleasant land transfer bonded with—who can get through to them, and keep them coming back.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

'Never again'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"spirit guide." And he was literally that for me, though I never told him so to his face. But I believed everything Marlo told me. And I believed I had yet to make up my mind about a pressing public issue, when I read something he wrote, or listened to his analysis, he would invariably convert me. He was a guide to the new issues of any political dispute or ideological conflict. And I always seemed to find him at the forefront of his new advocacy, especially when he took the leadership in it.

In 2003, pagbabago held a rock concert to commemorate the declaration of martial law. He did this mainly to remind young people of what happened in those years and how much the youth of that day, the generation of their parents, had sacrificed.

As was our wont, we asked Marlo to deliver the opening message. And it is to remember him, and to recall his life and his work, now that he, like the Quirinos, one of those youths who followed the call that I now regret his exuberant and unwavering support for him.

GOOD evening, you lucky Filipinos, living in freedom and democracy today, but to the great things of stupid things of your choice, enjoying democracy to exercise the judgment. We are indeed lucky Filipinos.

But his as was his nature, Marlo used such kindness to warn us, get better. Master a show and hope a young person's heart.

Yet it might be raining trouble today, but there was a time when we were in the midst of a flood of problems. It might seem like nothing was to be on these days, but there was a time when everything seemed against us. It might seem that our government could be trusted these days, but there was a time when our government not really out to get us. It might seem that our police and military can not come to do right these days, but there was a time when they were terribly efficient in doing wrong.

Yes, my dear lucky Filipinos, there was a time, more than 30 years ago, when we were not so lucky, when there was a dictator and a family and things demanded upon our beautiful country. There was a time when our government did not only fail us, but really oppressed, attacked, and wounded us.

So let me tell all of us here today in about with me—Filipinos. Again! Let us dream really hard so that those intending to be future dictators can hear us—Never Again!

There was a time when we were a nation of 40 million citizens and one man decided a whole nation. But, together at once, "Never Again!"

There was a time when a Japanese tourist told us that we are a racially people because we have a president who rode on a motorcycle that only rides on racing tracks. But, my friends, "Never Again!"

There was a time when our country was ruled, our brothers murdered, our fathers imprisoned, our mothers did not stop crying, and we ourselves were punished by fear. But sign submissive to, "Never Again!"

There was time when children of the long line of young men against their will. But for those young to who love their land long, we say, "Never Again!"

There was time when the brains of a Science High student got scattered on the streets by an exploding grenade. Those of us who still have our brains, we say, "Never Again!"

There was time when we were intimidated by threat, when we were afraid to know what is better, what we thought was true, ignorance and cynicism ensued were cruel. But now we know, "Never Again!"

Finally, there was when we could hardly muster the courage to protest, when we could hardly find the strength to be outraged, when we thought each of us was done against the terrible machinery of oppression. But now we are sure, "Never Again!"

A question for Ernie Baron

LOOKING BACK

Sandwich K. Ocampo

IMAGINE TILL April 27 to the posts principality of Monaco to the conference of the International Radiographic Organization (IRO), which starts there every five years. The IRO conference weekend, but a lot of expected representatives from middle and the Philippines is missing. Our country representative, the head of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria), should be there to argue for the renaming of part of the present South China Sea—within our borders into the West Philippine Sea. Namria's proposal to the IRO conference comes at a critical time when the Philippine Navy is physically asserting our claim to the Spratly Islands against a superior Chinese navy. It is a crucial time when our Department of Foreign Affairs is pursuing all diplomatic means and resources to use our claim.

The IRO was established in 1921 as "an intergovernmental consultative and technical organization that coordinates the activities of the national hydrographic offices" of member states, aimed at achieving "the greatest possible uniformity in nautical charts and documents." This reminded me of the importance of maps in charting national and international boundaries, as well as the importance of names. I do not know if the Philippines has submitted maps and charts to the IRO documents to support the naming of the West Philippine Sea. Japan and Korea brought their issues to the IRO long ago.

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs distributed to IRO delegates a translation brochure available on the Internet titled "Takeshima—One and Only Inherent Territory of the Japanese Nation." The brochure cited Emily Rosen, "Land Sea: Bird Colony Finds Its Place," in The Times, to argue that Japan and Korea first will end up in reference to IRO document "S-23" or "Limits of Oceans and Seas" that has recognized the "Sea of Japan" since 1928. Korea wrote, at least, a second name, "East Sea," to be recognized by the IRO. But it is S-23 Japan is using the status quo. Meanwhile, the IRO did not want to get involved and advised Japan and Korea to settle the dispute between them. In 2012 a proposal was made to revise the map and have the disputed area blank until the countries come to an agreement to be worked upon by all members. In 2007 a Taiwanese proposal was thrown in to divide the sea in five so Japan would have its fair of Japan, and Korea, its East Sea. The diplomatic solution so far has been to do nothing, leaving Japan and Korea to bring up their issue again during the ongoing 2012 IRO meeting.

Reading a recent feature on the dispute in the Wall Street Journal, I wondered whether the Philippines had submitted concerns. IRO meetings are held every five years, supposedly to "facilitate" and "coordinate" the activities of the IRO, yet it is neither or lodged documents in the IRO reference to support the renaming of the West Philippine Sea in international maps and other nautical documents. Some reasons cited by Filipino think tanks for the IRO's inaction is that the Philippines is a "new nation" and "developing country." Both reasons are lame excuses. Japan is a developed country, and Korea is a more junior, so all nations to give the Namria administrator a Monaco holiday as taxpayers' expense. But something so simple, almost trivial, as changing the name on a map can support our claim to the disputed Spratly islands. Japan and Korea have been using the name of their sea for centuries, nothing is attractive to China, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia, to.

The Wall Street Journal reports that Korea has the third largest delegation at the IRO conference, after the United States and the United Kingdom. Korea's delegation includes hydrographic staff who graduated from months of research in the US Library of Congress' map division, where they found "Sea of Korea" on 66 percent of the 339 maps they examined. Undeterred, Japan sent its own ambassador to Washington to counterattack. They dug up 1,720 maps with 77 percent showing the "Sea of Japan." Someone will now have to go through the 1,720 maps to find out why only seven had "Philippine Cartography." (1909) to see how many times the West Philippine Sea appears instead of South China Sea.

We also need a translation of all historical references to the South China Sea in ancient Chinese records. So far the earliest record found dates to the tenth century when an envoy from Brunei to the Chinese court described the location of his country as follows: "[o]n one to the southeast of the Chinese capital, at 40 [sic days' sail from Hai-p'o [Limit, 40 days from Kuang-chou [Guangzhou in Sanskrit], 30 days from Hsi-ch'ang [Chiang Mai], 20 days from Chan-ch'eng [Champa, now south Vietnam]." Mr. Constitution wants to see this in detail, is believed to be Bhadrea Indian something called Vijaya by Jean the Chinese academy. The envoy referred to "Po-ni" in the geographic work "Ta ching hsuan yu chi" is the first time the Philippines appears in Chinese records. This is long before Magellan was born, long before the islands were given the name John de Gonzalez Pizarro, Juan de Salcedo, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi and Miguel de Loarca, and eventually Filipinos in honor of the Principe de Asturias, Felipe, who is better known in world history as Philip II.

But the archipelago have a name before the 16th century and before the adventurers in the Chinese court—and "Sea of Japan" in question we should've asked the IRO-Ern Baron.

Comments are welcome at my Facebook Page.

Do aliases invalidate views?

LETTERS

RIGOBERTO TIGLAO must have a lot of time in his hands. He wrote to the current of thoroughly investigating and disproving the identities of letter writers who support Senator Comelec Impeachment trio and criticize Ms [illegible]'s pro-Ateneo and anti-Ateneo stance. In his columns on April 12 and 15, he tried to prove his assertions regarding the non-existence of these "letter-soldiers," and even kept tabs on the number of times some of them were published in the paper.

He claims that some of the letter-senders he mentioned actually belong to Westside Inquirer's PR camp and are just hiding under fictitious names to make their letters appear as if they came from ordinary citizens. He, thus, might be possible, for to that day and age, anybody can easily create an e-mail account and sorts up with any name from which they can send letters to newspaper editors. But, on the other hand, he also contemplate the possibility that there might be "cracks" (billions on them) who wish to share their opinions in a newspaper but are just very private and are wary of revealing their true identities in such a publicly accessible medium, hence, their use of pseudonyms.

Still, granting that a letter writer did, are a few wise words, since they in any way invalidate the arguments he/she raised? Does one just ignore a lawyer's words and merits unless its sender's existence is verified? Should one first be able to search the person on Google or Facebook before subscribing, presenting and entering in online letter-forums?

But the very Tiglao wrote his columns was clever as it distracts the readers from the fact that he did not address the main points of those letters; the forms was on the alleged hypocrisies of the senators. Does he hope that henceforth, naive readers would be dismissive of any letter that is critical of him and instead be more intrigued by the writer's motivations?

At any rate, those letters that provoked Tiglao's wee columns seem to have strong hinge thoughts to chronicle, he would have just ignored them, plain and simple. As it is, Tiglao does some action or direction about the hope-to-be-later of published letters that oppose his political views. It would be very interesting to see their hate for us will go with the letter-senders. So need to indicate me, Mr. Tiglao. Ours a bogus person.

—CLAUDE LOUIS C. OSTIMAR (RNRM)
lingaw@mail.ph@yahoo.com

No need to spend P1M for new ballot boxes

WITH DUE respect to the officials of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), I believe there is no need to spend P1.66 million for "new ballot boxes" in the 2010 elections just because of the pending election protests filed by Vice-presidential frontrunner Mar Roxas against Vice President Agustin Binay before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), as reported in some local papers, the Comelec said that it cannot use the 76,000 old ballot boxes made of hard plastic, because they are still being used to keep in safe custody the millions of ballots presented by Roxas.

I suggest, however, that instead of buying 76,000 new and similar hard plastic ballot boxes (which is still over more than P100-million), the Comelec could just purchase an equivalent number of corrugated cardboard boxes which, on the average, would only cost around P1.00 per box for a total cost of only P1 million, thus saving around P600 million. Since the said ballot boxes are still worth the various close-ups and city treasurers, the Comelec may ask the Supreme Court for authority to auction and transfer all the custody of those 75,000 ballot boxes to the cardboard boxes in the presence of the respective representatives of Roxas and Binay.

The cardboard boxes could then be stored with masking tapes signed by the representatives of the contending parties. Thereafter, the Comelec could just leave the old ballot boxes at the same headquarters or storage house as in the 2013 elections, thereby preserving more savings in capital and operational (delivery) expenditures.

There will be no problem as to the security of the integrity of the presidential votes, in case of breach thereof, the ballot images from the computer flash (CF) cards would always be counted as by the parties. After all, in all the election protests involving the 2007 senatorial elections where ballots were found to have been tampered with or counted in excess (for ballot images were the ones used by the Comelec and the courts as the basis of the recount in compliance with the new rules in counting such election protests cases.

Furthermore, if Comelec will purchase 76,000 ballot boxes and Binay' protest is eventually resolved, the poll body will have an oversupply of 75,000 ballot boxes. That would be a huge waste of P 100 million even as Binay's protest is eventually resolving at all after two and a half years or so to 2013.

—ROMULUS MACAPINLAC
election lawyer, Las Pinas City

A mockery of PH sovereignty in MILF-held areas

THE ESCALATION of kidnap-for-ransom cases in many parts of what are traditionally known as conflict areas in Mindanao does not augur well for the development of the region. As a time when the peace negotiation between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the government is set for yet another round of talks, these incidents do not speak well of the MILF's capability to deal with a tribal-feudistic upbringing in its territories. Kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) syndicates find veritable havens in nonviolence camps. This fact is, in itself, a horrible association with al-Qaida-minder MILF territories as an inviable recruiting and training ground.

For as long as the peace talks remain in limbo, government peacekeeping forces are at a disadvantage when they pursue criminal elements that find protection in nonviolence camps. While many of the KFR operatives and notorious gangs have been neutralized in encounters outside the MILF territories, a lot of them are still lurking in MILF territories waiting for the next opportunity to snatch their next kidnap victim or replenish scientific kill instincts on them. Such is the irony between government forces unless outdoor pursuit operations may "MILF territories" without asking permission from chiefs.

The students of Philippine sovereignty should not be allowed to go on any longer. Let's take a page of reason and lesson from the President Aquino Binay who said, when he was asked how he would deal with the conflict in Mindanao, that even though billions of pesos are being poured into the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, a lot of things have still to be attended to, that government should center its wide-ranging development projects, improve governance in ARMM and, if none of those will work, impose an iron-hand policy.

Binay is correct in many aspects. Because peace negotiations do not seem to work, there seems to be many logic in "da idea on how to deal with the problem once and for all and end the poverty and indecencies of Mindanao, more so the conflict areas, by delivering essential government services and guaranteeing infrastructure development projects, especially education. If none of those works, it's time to deal with the organized, KFR groups and terrorist bombs through other solutions.

We go with the strategy of Binay because she was majority of those who voted to live in peace and live without fears are tired and weary of the endless talks that seem to be dragging on to eternity. The young generation saw their parents vainly waiting for peace to come and carrying this yearning to their graves. These children are still waiting. Could the entire conditions, beating the same demands with no solutions in sight.

—ED PALAD,
edpalad1990@yahoo.com

hire now www.jobmarketonline.com

Kites in our lives

SUMMER BRINGS back fond and exciting memories to me and other kites flying enthusiasts of my youth in my old hometown.

When we were kids, the enormous open field at the back of our neighborhood was truly inviting. Those were the days when a small, a factory, and other commercial and industrial structures had not yet encroached the place for outdoor activities.

Our summer break from grade school provided ample time for

HIGH BLOOD
Bayani G. Mahahan

gaiter, wade fishing and other simple games we used to enjoyed. One popular hobby we constantly spent most of our time on was kite flying.

Flying with it we [illegible] but no real, although there were certain interesting things about it of which I wasn't aware. But as I grew up I realized that my appreciation of it are not relevant at all.

I observed small children scanning recommendations. As they could not make kites like those that the older boys fashioned out of bamboo sticks and paper de Japon (we called because it was just generally imported from Japan), the kids made do with a sheet of Cauda Cuerina pad, fold it on both sides, and use the sliders with fine strands—and prunes, they had a very tight paper kite!

The kids flew the tailwagging using sewing thread as string. Light as a feather, it flew to limited heights and often got entangled in a tree branch or the wires atop an electric post. The words "Don't touch the live wire" and that "it can kill or electrocute you" were little boy to become fun to make another one.

When we became teenagers we made fewer kites of varying sizes. We cut sticks according to the desired size of the kite. With a sharp knife we scraped the sticks, making them thin and smooth so that they would not easily break when they are bent according to the kite. The sticks formed the stick's end skeleton using fine wire covered by the kind of paper commercially used for Christmas (same as that special kind we called papel de Japon. It really was strong enough to withstand strong wind at the kite flew high in the sky.

Status symbol

The kite hobby became a status symbol of some symbolizing neighborhood. Tall children of ordinary families made our own kites, while the parents of some of our fellow hobbyists bought kites for them. And because these were factory-made, so to speak, these were usually of better quality. Call it our grapes, but my gang preferred to make our kites produced kites, in the making, realized as to be artistic and functional.

One observed fashion and sizes trending closely while flying their kites in the open field. A father enabled his small child with his left arm while the right hand secured the kite soaring high in the sky.

Also, one noted the gross difference between the "well-off" and the "needy" among the kite players. The former were better dressed in sports jackets, signature baseball caps and sunglasses. The latter were easily recognizable in their simple wear—same in shorts and T-shirts or tanks, some unclothed from the waist up.

There were also the "vendors" who sold kites and paper. For a few centavos, family errand boys served the fathers and children sandwiches, pop drinks or iced water. Other helpers carried umbrellas to shield their players from the scorching heat of the summer sun.

Same game

Years have run around, hardest were children among them, leaving the keen to their seasoned elders.

Same game

The kites we fashioned in a variety of sizes and shapes each had a particular name—"sar magela," "pe'ora," or "pampiro" in the native tongue. Renowned Filipino song writer Celeste Legaspi had a popular pop hit, "Saranggola ni Pepe," which described the joy in and frustration a little lad named Pepe for his kite. The song also reminded an impressive metaphor pertaining to the relevance of kites to people's life.

We called the kite with a semi-circular shape in the lower part "Pati-Senarisa" for a young lady's homesick. Philippine-size bandaraan resembled to our favorite, it soared high in the sky with the bamboo string dropping until the body of the kite was like a dancing ballerina. Another one we used to make was named "Devil Lala." As the term implies, you would really know the late by its tail in the shape of a fish's rear pin.

Over the years, the kite makers in our midst produced symbols, recommended kites shaped like a bird, an airplane, a person, an airplane, and so on.

My fascination with kites remains although at my age, it's out of place for me to fly one. But each time I see people doing that, I stop and watch for a while. One time, on my way to Lucena City I passed a place where kites flyers were having a "paraan" (I don't know the exact English term) for it, but it's the equivalent of a "dog fight" of neighbors in the 40s. I'll tell my story in parliament. My packed on the roadside and joined an enthusiastic crowd of spectators.

I understand that some organizations sponsor kite flying contests from time to time. A recent one was held in Rizal Park some years ago. Also recently there was a festival in Cebu in Pampanga, but it seemed the kites became second fiddle to the show's slogans competition of late air balloons. Festivities involving balloons and kites are usually sponsored by leading food and medicinal companies dealing in food and other commodities.

Bayani G. Mahahan, 70, is a freelance writer and a retired journalism teacher of the former Western Philippine Colleges (now University of Batangas) and later Bridges College, both in Batangas City.

If you have any complaints, grievance or suggestions about the newspaper or any news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave., corner Sapan and Maria Orosa, City of Makati or send a fax to him, 897-0704, or e-mail feedback@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters for the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

DAR chief vows to start process of distributing land

By Kristine L. Alave

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Virgilio de los Reyes said yesterday he would start immediately the process of distributing the Hacienda Luisita to its 6,000 farmer-workers.

"We will do all three things simultaneously: the valuation, secular inspection, and the identification of the beneficiaries," he los Reyes said in an interview yesterday.

He said land surveys would be conducted until beneficiaries identified in a process that would take about a year.

De los Reyes said the Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) would have to throw in the government its net income to 1989, the year the Supreme Court said the value of the estate should be set in accordance with the aborted stock distribution scheme hammered out that year between the management and the farm workers.

Subsequent would be conducted by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Land Bank of the Philippines, he said.

Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Antonio Pantoguan said the valuation and land acquisition process usually takes nine months to a year, should all things go smoothly.

Segregation survey

The identification of the beneficiaries and the subdivision and subdivision surveys are the most time consuming steps, Pantoguan said. The government would also have to do a "segregation survey" of roads, canals, and other areas in the estate not covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

"We have to validate the beneficiaries, approximately nine hundred (9,000) as this is needed to determine the size of the individual lots," Pantoguan said.

DAR officials previously said identifying the farmers entitled to the land would be difficult as some beneficiaries had died and had passed on their plots to their relatives.

He said DAR would partner with other agencies like the Land Registration Authority and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in help in the survey.

Pantoguan said that HLI could still challenge the valuation base set by the high tribunal, but this should not delay the land distribution process.

Process of distribution

The company, which used to run the largest sugar plantation and mill in Luzon, would have to file a petition first before the DAR Adjudication Board.

"The decision on the amount can be appealed all the way to the Supreme Court. But that will not prevent the process of distribution from continuing. In other words, land distribution will proceed despite challenges to the valuation," Pantoguan explained.

Hacienda Luisita Timeline

1957—Jose Cojuangco Jr. acquires Central Azucarera de Tarlac, including Hacienda Luisita, from the Spanish company Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas (Tabacalera), through a Central Bank-guaranteed loan from the Government Service Insurance System and a dollar loan from the Overseas Bank of New York.

The loans are secured on condition that the estate will be distributed to farmers under President Ramon Magsaysay's land reform program. The properties are transferred to Cojuangco's Tarlac Development Corp. (Tadeco).

May 1, 1980—The Marcos government files a civil case before the Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) to compel the distribution of the land to farm workers.

Dec. 2, 1985—Manila RTC orders the transfer of the hacienda to the Ministry of Agrarian Reform, which will distribute the land to farmers after compensating the landowners P2,500 per hectare. The Cojuangcos brought the case to the Court of Appeals.

February 1989—Corazon C. Aquino, one of Cojuangco's first hairs and the widow of slain Sen. Ninoy Aquino, is installed as President after People Power Revolution toppled Marcos.

July 22, 1989—Aquino issues Presidential Proclamation No. 131 and Executive Order No. 229 calling for a Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

March 17, 1989—Manila's general files motion to dismiss the civil case against the Cojuangcos, citing CARP. Court grants motion.

June 10, 1989—CARP law is enacted, provides stock distribution option (SDO) scheme as an alternative to land distribution.

Aug. 23, 1989—Independence Sugar Corp. (Luisita Inc. (SLI) for SDO deal.

May 6, 1989—In a referendum, 92.4 percent of farmers reject "yes" to SDO. Awards P14.1 m cost at P500 million, of which P100 million comprise the other 7.6 percent of farmers.

Dec. 4, 2003—6,000 farmers file a supplemental petition to revoke SDO, claiming deal is unconstitutional.

Nov. 16, 2004—Seven people are killed and scores are injured in a violent dispersal of striking workers.

Sept. 16, 2005—DAR cancels SDO, orders distribution to farmers of estate.

Dec. 28, 2006—The President's Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) upholds the DAR decision. HLI asks the Supreme Court to nullify the PARC resolution.

June 2006—Supreme Court issues a temporary restraining order against PARC's resolution.

July 5, 2011—Court upholds SDO termination of SDO, but rules for another referendum.

Nov. 22, 2011—Responding to an appeal, court invites 10 of the farmers to a hearing on the distribution of 4,335 hectares of the hacienda to 6,296 farm workers beneficiaries, who voted in favor of land distribution. HLI files a motion for reconsideration and clarification against the high tribunal's ruling. Inquirer Research

Source: Inquirer Archives

'Justice is alive in the Philippines'

THE vote the prevailing sentiment of Filipinos indicate on the Supreme Court's final decision in doing the distribution of almost 5,000 hectares of land in Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac province.

Hacienda Luisita became a trending topic on Twitter yesterday after the ruling was released.

Twitter user Mario Jabonete said, "Justice has finally served all people who deserves best".

User Lee T tweeted, "Hacienda Luisita finally to be distributed to its rightful owners. Bobong Sanchyo as Filipina Gracie is alive in the Philippines!."

Twitter user Stephanie Lim said she was happy for the farmers. "I hope that the distribution will happen as soon as possible."

Television personalities also shared their thoughts through Twitter.

Antonio Antonio de Roon, who is married to Regine Ocampo-Roon, Julia "Julie" Lobregat Po said, "Finally, Hacienda Luisita farmers will get what they deserve. Sa to land distribution! He is proud!"

"So happy for the farmers of Hacienda Luisita. Well deserved!" Claudine Villa tweeted.

Some on social networking site Facebook also praised the high court's ruling.

'Yellow rose'

After a lengthy wait, the farmers finally got a taste of responsibility, said Facebook user Ian Kin F Cabay.

"JUSTICE," said Facebook user Gabriel Barlongay.

Facebook user Jon Pineda said, "The SC justices voted 14-0 for Hacienda Luisita land distribution. Bejeus to Luisita farmers!"

There were also users who were skeptical about the decision.

Future user Dino Francisco said, "Luisita finally to be distributed but I don't think the fellow here will agree. They will still defend all the rules to take it back."

Hoping for no flip-flop

The sprawling sugar estate is owned by President Aquino's Cojuangco clan.

Chief Justice Renato Corona has said his impeachment "is a revenge and a diversion attempt to stop the distribution of Hacienda Luisita lands."

"If this is really the end of this case, just how long will it take to distribute the land to the farmers? 1 year, 5 years, 20 years? In the Philippines, the law moves slower than a Carabao," said user Jon in a comment on the inquirer.net website.

"I hope the SC won't flip-flop on this. Congrats to the farmers. Use the land wisely," said user magandamaypag on the website's comment on the Inquirer website.

In the article of impeachment against Corona, Article 3 refers to the lack of probity in equity and independence in ruling in flip-flopping decisions. Compiled by Ana Nieves and Schetri Quindoz, Inquirer Research

SC: Only ₱196M compensation for HLI at 1989 valuation

From page A1

deal to submit management of land to stock distribution option (SDO) in lieu of outright land distribution.

In a ruling last Nov. 22, the court maintained the SDO and voted 14-0 to distribute the hacienda.

Chief Justice Renato Corona and Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Antonio Eduardo Nachura, Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Roberto Abad, Jose Perez, Jose Mendoza and Martin Villarama Jr. voted for the 1989 valuation. Marquez said.

Voting against were Associate Justices Lucas Bersamin, Maria Lourdes Sereno, Mariano del Castillo, Bienvido Reyes, Estela Perlas-Bernabe and Bienvenido Reyes. In the Nov. 22 decision, Sereno, Mr. Aquino's first appointee to the high tribunal, ballied for a P40 billion, echoing the position of the HLI management.

As in previous court deliberations on Hacienda Luisita, Associate Justice Arturo Brion-Carpio initiated himself from the vote, Marquez said.

President Aquino's spokesperson declined comment on the decision, saying it was up to the Department of Agrarian Reform and the solicitor general to come a resolution.

Before Aquino, HLI spokesperson, said: "We have always believed that the purpose of the law is ultimate justice and equal rule for everyone. The application of the law in this case is no exception. The majority of the justices have spoken. HLI shall abide and will comply with what is required by the decision."

Lipio said the farmers who decided in 1989 to acquire stocks in HLI must accept the court's final ruling.

Yesterday's decision denied HLI's motion to clarify and reconsider its Nov. 22 ruling, which ordered the DAR to extend the distribution of land to farm workers. It set the 1989 market price for Hacienda Luisita land as a basis for computing just compensation at P40,000 per hectare, then placed at ₱196 million by HLI.

HLI, however, asked the court to peg the value of the land at its fair market value in 1998, when then Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman issued the "notice of coverage" for the sugarcane plantation.

TEARS OF JOY An elderly woman (top center) from Hacienda Luisita receives the good news from the Supreme Court holding its summer session in Baguio City. AP/LEO

HLI didn't give estate's price

Lipio said at that time land value in the area was around ₱150,000 hectare. This adds up to a total of ₱4.9 billion, but he said there were other economic aspects as well—income generation, employment, housing, etc., and that HLI had not placed a half-pack figure for the entire estate up for distribution.

Lito Bais, president of the United Luisita Workers Union (Ulwu), said the value of the property was important in determining Sumon Bengan damage award for the "notice of coverage" for the sugarcane plantation.

Lito Bais, president of the United Luisita Workers Union (Ulwu), said the value of the property was important in determining Sumon Bengan damage award for the "notice of coverage" for the sugarcane plantation.

Bais said, however, that the court's decision to peg the value of the land at its fair market value in 1998, when then Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman issued

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

P-Noy changes tune, won't sell hydroelectric plants, says aide

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—President Aquino has changed his tack on selling two hydropower plants that supply cheap electricity to Mindanao, according to one of his aides.

Lovelihal Sicaluna, chair of the Mindanao Development Authority (Minda) with a Cabinet rank, said Mr. Aquino realized that privatizing the Agus and Pulangi hydropower plants could weaken the agency's power to finance infrastructure projects in Epira.

"The President himself is now against the privatization. He has realized that privatization of Agus and Pulangi hydropower plants will weaken the Epira," said Sicaluna, two days after meeting with Mr. Aquino on Sunday.

Asistio said the two hydropower facilities could not be sold separately because although they are composed of several power-generating sets, they share the same water source and the same water rights.

He said the buyer of the two facilities would corner more than half of Mindanao's energy source if these were sold.

Under Epira, a private company could not own 30 percent of the power generation sector in any plant.

Asistio said Agus and Pulangi provide 52 percent of Mindanao's electric supply.

During her meeting with the President, she said she proposed that the management of Agus and Pulangi be handed over to Mindanaons.

"I told P-Noy that Mindanaons are interested to manage the Agus-Pulangi hydropower plants. I've talked to several businessmen in Mindanao and they are willing to help," Asistio said.

She said the management of the hydro plants could be undertaken by the proposed Mindanao Power Corp.

"If we manage that, we can make it earn. And we can easily check the irregularities it's public knowledge that the Transco Power Corp. (Napocor) was mismanaged," Asistio said.

She said she told Mr. Aquino that the plants were earning money.

Pulangi needs about P11 billion for repairs while the 61-year-old Agus needs P2.3 billion.

Asistio said based on government data, Napocor spends less than P1 to generate 1 kilowatt hour of power from the two plants and sells it at P3 per kilowatt hour.

Asistio said a Mindanao Power Committee had been created to serve as a think-tank and oversight body in finalizing the planned turnover of management of the two power facilities from Napocor to the proposed Mindanao Power Corp.

The Department of Energy will be part of the Mindanao Power Committee, which is composed of representatives from the business sector, power consumers, distribution utilities and other stakeholders in the power industry. *Agustin C. Dumlao, Inquirer Mindanao*

THIS OLD radar building in Casiaduanan (minus the dome) is now quarters for weather station employees but could serve as tourist attraction for the country's battle-scarred weather prediction in the country. *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Weather radar seen as tourist attraction

By Rea M. Nazal
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BAPTI, Catanduanes—Officials are seeing a use for the eight-story Doppler radar building here other than to monitor the skies for bad weather.

The structure itself, they said, could be a tourist attraction.

Scientists, tourism and local government officials and members of a nongovernment organization said the facility could become a tourist attraction.

President Aquino will open the new building on May 7. It was earlier planned to be inaugurated on April 4 and 27.

The Doppler radar, which sits on top of a hill in Barangay Bautista, has been acquired through a P1.2-billion grant from the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, who also chairs the Regional Development Council, said the facility could enhance tourist awareness on climate change.

Maria Buenaflor, the country's regional director, said there are other reasons for making the station a tourist site. Bato is adjacent to the town of Baras, which is now recognized as one of the world's favorite surfing sites, she said.

"Visitors might also opt to drop by the Doppler radar to see for themselves how it looks like from the inside set and its functions and also to talk to scientists for additional information," Buenaflor said.

Much better, if not the best, weather monitoring facilities were installed in the radar facility, models will be able to forecast when and where rains would fall, she added.

Buenaflor said with ample lead time, the organizers would plan activities based on the weather.

Community adaptation practitioners led by the Local Climate Change Adaptation for Development, which is headed by Manuel Rampos, urged the Department of Tourism to adopt a range of policies that encourages a socially progressive and sustainable" ecotourist and tourism-related programs.

Dr. Leandro Oshilis, the regional head of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), said the agency was not considering plans to collect entrance fees from people who would want to tour the radar site.

Pagasa only wants visitors "to see for themselves and appreciate the potential of these equipment to saving lives," Oshilis said.

Raffresia Garcia, the chief meteorological officer of Catanduanes, said two other Doppler radars are being built in Subic and in Aparri, Cagayan.

Shields said Pagasa wants to enhance the entire country with Doppler radars.

The radars could cover a radius of 120 kilometers, enough to produce images of weather disturbances far out to the Pacific Ocean and the western seas, he said.

Shields said radars are usually placed in coastal areas.

Samar group seeks stop to mining in province

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—An environmentalist group has sought the help of President Aquino for the cancellation of the permit issued to a mining company in Homonhon Island off Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

The group, Save Isla Homonhon Movement (SIHM), claimed that Emir Mineral Resources Corp. (EMRC) has violated Republic Act No. 7942 or the Mining Act because the area identified for its exploration includes forested part of a watershed.

The law bans mineral exploration in watersheds serving other areas.

"The area is considered our protected area where our watershed is at stake and where our plantations and valuable crops are threatened," said SIHM in a six-page letter on April 23.

EMRC was granted an exploration permit by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau on April 3, 2013, for a 279.13-hectare area in Barangay Canagaran and Barangay Canavoyan with a combined population of more than 2,000 people.

EMRC plans to extract nickel which is said to be abundant in Homonhon, the island where Ferdinand Magellan landed on March 16, 1521.

SIHM also claimed that silt-loving Minahanggang found EMRC to mine Homonhon Island would not only result in environmental destruction but also lead to the loss of livelihood.

In Baguio, candles flicker on 3-year-old disappearance case

BAGUIO CITY—Relatives and friends of missing political activist James Balao lit 31 candles at the Baguio Cathedral grounds late week to offer prayers that he would be found.

The 31 candles were also meant for the 31st birthday of Balao, a founding member of the militant Cordillera Peoples Alliance, who went missing since he was taken by armed men in La Trinidad, Benguet, on Sept. 17, 2008.

"President Aquino committed to resolve issues on human rights violations, but nothing has changed since he was elected as our leader. We want James to know that we are still here looking for him and waiting for him to return. We will never stop seeking justice for him," said Jean Balao Swegan, Balao's sister.

In a letter read by Swegan, the Balao family assailed the Supreme Court for dropping former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the list of respondents in their petition for a writ of amparo.

Swegan said Arroyo should be included because Balao was abducted, allegedly by government soldiers, during her administration.

Balao's name appears on the list of 208 victims of enforced disappearances during the Arroyo administration from 2001 to June 2008, according to records of human rights organizations helping the family.

"President Aquino has not changed things. We continue to hear of those like you, who speak about social justice and indigenous peoples rights, getting arrested, killed or disappearing," Swegan said.

Judy Boggs, secretary general of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance, said the group is studying the filing of a motion for reconsideration in court to include Arroyo and her generals in the list of respondents. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

A YOUNG relative of missing activist James Balao holds a banner condemning political violence in front of Baguio Cathedral. Members of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance are Balao's relatives light 31 candles to remember his birthday and offer prayers.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ QUEZON

Bank worker killed

A BANK employee was killed after he was robbed of an estimated P600,000 by still unidentified suspects in Tayabas City early yesterday, police said.

PO1 Wendell Pormaestros, Tayabas police investigator, identified the victim as one Alexander Obiena, employee of the Rural Bank of Tagkawayan branch in nearby Sariaya town.

Police said Obiena was shot point-blank by one of the two suspects after Obiena got into a taxi in Tayabas on his way to deposit the money he was carrying in a bank in Lucena City.

Quoting witnesses, Pormaestros said after the shooting, the gunman grabbed the bag of the victim and escaped aboard a motorcycle being driven by a cohort. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Train kills man

A 25-YEAR-OLD electrical employee was hit and killed by a Manila-bound train near his house in Pagbilao town on Friday, police said.

Pagbilao police investigator PO2 Dennis Bañadera said Sofio Loobate Gamo III, a worker at a 7-11 store branch in Lucena City, was found with severe injuries in the legs and head.

Bañadera said Gamo's body was also found by his father at the railway near their house in Sitio Ulo Ilok in Barangay Mapagong. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ CAVITE

2 thieves dead

TWO SUSPECTED thieves were killed in a clash with policemen in General Mariano Alvarez (GMA), Cavite, past midnight yesterday.

Cavite police director Senior Supt. John Bulalacao, in a text message, said the slain suspects were identified as Arnulfo Bathan, prior to the clash past 1 a.m. yesterday.

Raiders were waiting for a ride in Barangay Pabilo, GMA, when the suspects aboard a motorcycle passed by and snatched Bathan's bag that contained P18,000 in cash and prepaid load coupons.

A police team patrolling the area for another operation happened to pass by and noticed the commotion.

Supt. Roman Rabaca, chief of the Cavite police intelligence branch, said police gave chase to the suspects who were fleeing toward Barangay F. de Castro. When cornered, the suspects opened fire, prompting police to fire back, he said.

The suspects, who are unidentified as of yesterday, died of multiple bullet wounds. Police recovered a .45 pistol and a .38-caliber revolver and Bathan's bag in the clash site. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ BAGUIO CITY

Bomb explodes

A BOMB exploded in a vacant lot near the overland transport terminal here past 2 p.m. on Wednesday.

Senior Insp. Renante Llanera, Dagupan del Sur police chief, said the still undetermined type of bomb exploded some 100 meters from the bus terminal.

No casualty was reported, but a parked vehicle was damaged. Police are still investigating the blast. *Rolando B. Inoso, Inquirer Mindanao*

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Igorot companies seen as mining partners

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

IF THE CORDILLERA'S rich mineral and other resources continue to lure multinational companies, why can't homegrown firms tap them for the region's development?

This is very much possible, according to leaders of the Igorot Global Organization (IGO), an organization of Igorot people abroad.

This is why during its sixth international conference in Baguio City on April 11-13, the IGO chose the theme "Igorots in Partnership for Development," at a time when public-private partnership (PPP) is the Aquino administration's buzzword.

Rolito Bomasang, a member of the board of directors of Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) Exploration Corp., proposed a reference to the theme PPPs in the Cordillera.

"The key to facilitating PPPs in areas occupied by indigenous peoples, such as the Cordillera, is to enable them to become major co-producer stakeholders in the mining and energy operations and not just employees or landowners being paid some sort of royalty or crop damages as is the current practice," he told conference delegates.

Cree Indian model

Bomasang cited how the Canadian government was able to get the Cree Indians to support and participate in developing the petroleum and mineral resources in their area.

While the lords of the governments and the private sector, he said the Cree Indians set up their own corporation under Canadian law. The corporation became the "project owner," which then invited major private mining and petroleum companies to become "project developers."

Stating the strong opposition to corporate mining in the Cordillera and elsewhere in the country, Bomasang said the Cree Indian model could also safeguard.

"In mineralized areas occupied by indigenous peoples, such as the Cordillera, indigenous peoples should be allowed, even assisted, to form their own mining companies under Philippine laws," he said.

These homegrown corporations could become project owners, which can then invite other companies with adequate and financial expertise to become the developers under service contracts that allow development to recover their costs. The net proceeds are then shared between the project owner and developer, Bomasang said.

He said he brought this idea to mining companies, mining professionals and some nongovernment organizations perceived to be antimining. "So far, there has been broad support," he said.

As early as 2005, Bomasang said he discussed this same idea and drew the interest of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Even then, the president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, Gerry Brimo, who, although had initial reservations, said the scheme could be acceptable to the big mining companies, Bomasang said.

"Rather than resist the government's action, the people in the Cordillera can go ahead and start setting their own mining and energy companies [or cooperatives] under Philippine laws," Bomasang said.

"After all, we already have so many Igorot professionals, many of whom have had foreign training and experience," he added.

Project owners

He said some Igorot entrepreneurs have and abroad had funds that could be invested in cross-border ventures.

But Bomasang stressed that ownership and membership in any homegrown companies must include everybody in the community. "Everyone must not only be a stakeholder but a shareholder as well," he said.

Once these legitimate Igorot companies are organized, they can apply for the appropriate government licenses, such as exploration permits, mineral production sharing agreements, service contracts and other requirements, he said.

Bomasang has a proposal for areas already covered by valid licenses but which cannot be developed due to land reluctance. "I think the current holders of mining licenses would be more than willing to go into joint venture arrangements with Igorot corporations that can legally enter into contracts," he said.

His idea has begun to be adopted by a few indigenous peoples groups.

For example, the community of Barangay Pudong in Kapangan, Benguet, had organized themselves into a corporation and partnered with a foreign investor to develop a 6.8-megawatt mini-hydro project.

Bomasang's proposal has drawn the attention of IGO leaders, some of whom expressed interest about the mechanics of forming companies or cooperatives.

Organic 'lechon' capital

By Yolanda Sarcia
Dagupan City

AFTER MAKING a name for itself as "bangus" (milkfish) capital of the Philippines, Dagupan City wants to have another feather on its cap—the place to have the best organic "lechon" (roasted pig) in the country.

The city government on Tuesday staged a cook-off at the plaza to search for the best special lechon, a contest held as part of the ongoing Bangus Festival. Thirty "lechoneros," including two from Mindanao, joined the contest.

Dagupeños came up with the lean recipes. The recipe of Melchor Corpuz, a resident of Barangay Bonuan-Gueset, became the signature Dagupan lechon.

Corpuz's lechon was stuffed with "lechon manok" (roasted chicken), herbs and spices, and won for him P50,000.

Runners-up were fellow Dagupeños Virgilio Rago of Barangay Lasip Chico and Richard Tamayo of Barangay Mayombo.

Mayor Benjamin Lim said the project was part of marketing Dagupan as a food destination.

"We are known for bangus and 'pigar pigar' (deep-fried thinly sliced beef). Now we want to be known for our organic lechon, and also other seafood, like oysters, clams, crabs, shrimps, 'tahilo-tahilo' (jack), 'tapa-lapa' (grouper) and sea bass," Lim said.

He said it was time that the city's industry be recognized through a competition and provide them livelihood.

Pigs for the Dagupan lechon are nourished with all-natural feed and have lean, tender and flavorful meat, and less fat.

The city government piloted the project dubbed "Profitable Indigenous Omni-nut Systems (Pigs)" by distributing piglets to selected residents of Barangay Mangin on Feb. 2.

On March 22, eight lechoneros competed for the top prize during the first stage of the cook-fest, using the organic pigs raised in Mangin. Entries were evaluated based on taste, crispiness, juiciness, overall appearance and aroma.

"Lechon-size pigs (20-25 kilograms) are more expensive at P118 a kg than the fully grown pigs (70-80 kg), which cost P80 a kg of live weight. So backyard raisers can have more income in less time. But they should have a market for their animals that is why we are embarking on this project," Lim said.

Owners of Quinton Special Lechon and their grandfather, Arturo Quinton, 70, was among the pioneer pig runners in the city. Quinton is now based in the United States, but his son, Apolinario, continues the family trade.

May Langit, Apolinario's daughter, said her grandfather was known to be the best lechonero in the city and he used to cook the delicacy on Rizal and Rivera houses.

Langit said the family was still sourcing pigs for its own classic grandfather dish. "Maybe it's the technique of roasting the pig or the ingredients we use. But our lechon is well-liked and we get orders not only from the city but from other Pangasinan towns," she said.

SOME 20 PIGS are roasted in Dagupan City to find the signature organic Dagupan "lechon."

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

SPORTS

Llamados gun for 2-0 tonight; Chot rues blown 'gifts'

By Mysang B. Castillo

TALK 'N TEXT coach Chot Reyes was utterly disgusted Monday night. And who wouldn't be?

"That's why they call it gift shop because they're gifts," Reyes said, moments after an 82-80 loss to 6-0 Meg that gave the Llamados a 1-0 lead in their best-of-seven series for the PBA Commissioner's Cup. "They were gifts we refused to accept."

Talk 'N' Text rammed a total of 20 free throws in the game, and more than the loss, that's what upset Reyes the most.

The defending champion Tropang Texters will cross into today's 6:45 p.m. game at Smart Araneta Coliseum poised to win. Simple logic dictates that they cannot afford to sink into a 0-2 hole against the rock-solid Llamados.

"These guys (Texters) were playing basketball since they were running short pants," Reyes said. "I can't help them there. I can't shoot free throws for them."

B-Meg coach Tim Cone acknowledged that the team his Llamados beat last Sunday night were not the same squad that dominated and qualified as the No. 1 side after the eliminations round.

"They were not hitting shots like they normally do," Cone said.

There were several "absent" players for Reyes in Game 1, like Jason Castro and Ranidel de Ocampo, who struggled to find their points mark.

To B-Meg's credit, the squad got it all together despite Jayson Simpao's cold shooting hands. The former two-time MVP was good for only nine points in that game.

The big difference was Peter June Simon, who stepped up for the Llamados together with reigning import Denzel Bowles.

B-Meg's lineup may probably appeased the Texters, with Bowles, Marc Pingris and Rafi Reavis dictating the tempo in the paint and fitness, JC Intal and Josh Urbiztondo playing frantic up-tempo.

Larry Fonacier also couldn't come up with his usual contributions for the Texters. Coming into the game with a career-average of close to 50 percent from the three-throw line, "Leaky Larry" missed two crucial free throws in the waning seconds.

In league history, 18 of the 44 teams that won Game 1 have gone on to win the championship series.

Lady Eagles in big start

Down Lady Tamaraws in 4; SSC tossers sweep Letran

By Cedelf P. Tupas

DEFENDING champion Ateneo got superb efforts from its starters to hammer out a 25-17, 29-18, 19-25, 25-15 victory over the Eastern U two-meeting at the start of the Shakey's V-League Season 9 First Conference at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Pilo Gaingan, Alyssa Valdez, Angelina Gervacio and Thai import Anusree Likhasit finished in double figures as the Lady Eagles handcuffed their awesome firepower to gain a headstart in the 15-hour tournament.

Sue Sebastian, with veteran reinforcement Jessy Rhodee holding her, proved too strong for returning Lemery, 20-24, 25-12, 25-14, in the opening match.

Rhodee, playing her 10th conference for the Lady Stags, fired 16 points as the alumna of Arellano nearly carried San Sebastian to the win in 75 minutes.

The Lady Stags made the most errors of their rookie act in the first set, coming in the next two as the Lady Knights offered token resistance the rest of the way.

"We're lucky we got the first set and got going with our game in the second [set]," said San Sebastian coach Chot Malanza. "Rookie experience is important to us."

While Rhodee displayed a terrific individual performance, the Lady Eagles kept the Tamaraws guessing with the quarter of Valdez, Gaingan, Gervacio and Likhasit

ATTACKED spiker Pilo Gaingan hammers it in off Ejoyce Ilo of Far Eastern U in yesterday's featured match. ALREADY THAN HOME

rotating turns pummeling the defense.

Gaingan finished with 18 points on a variety of off-speed spikes and down-the-line kills, while Valdez chipped in 14 off 23 attacks.

Gervacio accounted for three of the Lady Eagles' seven service aces as well as four of the 11 points off blocks and wound up with 13 points to match Rhodee's output.

"The girls are showing a lot of confidence which comes from their good performance from the UAAP," said Ateneo coach Roger Gorayeb, whose Lady Eagles reached the UAAP Finals for the first time early this year.

The Lady Eagles seemed to a turn-set final, but looked sloppy in the third set, giving the Lady Tamaraws a lifeline. But Gervacio and Gaingan answered earlier in the final frame, where the Lady Eagles were hardly troubled.

Rosemarie Vargas, the UAAP best server last season, had 18 points for FEU.

D-League: Cebuana, Big Chill drub foes

By Cedelf P. Tupas

CEBUANA Lhuillier and Big Chill forged a three-way tie for second spot with convincing wins yesterday in the 10th D-League Foundation Cup at San Juan Gym.

A flurry of triples in the second half boosted the Gems to a 101-84 drubbing of Blackwater Elite, while Big Chill held off Junior Powerade, 73-65, for its fourth win in six bare games.

Lemery Alvarado went 7-of-7 from beyond the arc, while Kevin Han also hauled two triples, fueling a surge that allowed the Gems to pull away from the highly-physical contest and give new coach Jimmy Alapag his first win as Cebuana Lhuillier coach.

With the victory, the Gems, who hit nine triples in the second half, improved to 4-2, tying the Supercharged and the Elite at second.

"This win is a lesson for us as the players are still trying to adapt to my system," said Aces, whose squad snapped a three-game win streak by the Elite.

The Supercharged drew big games from Emile Jourdain and Alex Mallari to frustrate the Tigers, who fell out of playoff position after absorbing their fourth loss in six games.

Jourdain wound up with 16 points, while Mallari pumped in 17, including 11 in the last two quarters.

"Our defense rallied in last any more games so it was important that brought our A game," said Big Chill coach Robert Sison. PAUL a report from Rambolph Asuncion, Contributor

The Scores
CEBUANA LHUILLIER (29 – Alvarado 4, Mallari 4, Han 4, Mendillo 3, Ilo 3, Cortez 2, Gallego 2, Manuel 2, Pascual 2, Pascual 2, Alapag 1, Ayaay 1, Tungcab 1)
BLACKWATER (0 – Rosario 2, Pascual 2, Cortez 2, Gallego 2, Manuel 2, Alapag 1, Ayaay 1, Tungcab 1)
Quarters: 19-17, 36-35, 57-50, 73-65
JUNIOR POWERADE (29 – Mamuyac 3, Jourdain 3, Cruz 3, Mallari 3, Ilo 3, Cortez 2, Gallego 2, Manuel 2, Pascual 2, Pascual 2, Alapag 1, Ayaay 1, Tungcab 1)
BIG CHILL (29 – Mamuyac 3, Jourdain 3, Cruz 3, Mallari 3, Ilo 3, Cortez 2, Gallego 2, Manuel 2, Pascual 2, Pascual 2, Alapag 1, Ayaay 1, Tungcab 1)
Quarters: 19-17, 36-35, 57-50, 73-65

Ardina opens defense of Queen Sirikit crown

BEIJING champion Irene Ardina puts her title on the line against world No. 1 Lydia Ko and Asia-Pacific Amateur female golden starting today in the Queen Sirikit Cup at the Mission Hills Country Club's Garden Course in Singapore.

The 18-year-old Filipino hosted a satellite field that included Korean stars Kim Hyo-Joo Kim and Kim Ji-Soo to claim the crown in India last year.

But since, Ardina's been a tougher out of challenges rush. So can the kid have repeated and snap Steve Double's 13-year drought in the team competition of the event also known as the Asia-Pacific International Golf Team Championship.

Ardina pocketed herself up for the 36-hole championship with three victories in the last six weeks, including the Philippine Open (Limit) Play Championship two weeks ago.

Her fourth up an ICTSI-backed PH squad that also includes Jhyne Agoto, Princess Superal and Jennylyn Gregorio for another crack at the title the Filipinos nearly seized last year.

South Korea, the 14-time champion, seems as the favorite to the team competition with the Philippines, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and Malaysia to title threats.

"South Korea is really solid and long, so it is important that they put their drives on the fairway to set up good approach shots," said ICTSI team coach Bong Lapus, after the team sampled the par-72 layout Monday.

For Ardina, putting will be the key.

"The greens have a perfect roll, there is no resistance not to pass well," she said.

San Beda, NU eye No. 4

By Cedelf P. Tupas

LADDERS status San Beda and National University look to tighten their grip on the top spot in their respective groups today when they battle separate rivals in the Filoil Flying V Hunet Premier Preseason Cup.

Sporting a 3-0 record, the Lions take on the University of the Philippines Maroons at 3:30 p.m., after the W.L. Ang Ems clash. Arriving to bounce back from a close defeat at its clashes with University of Santo Tomas in the third game at the Filoil Flying V.

The Lions are coming off a 81-83 victory over the Eagles in a rematch of last year's finals. But while Lions rookie coach Koyin Magsanoc was satisfied with the victory, the former NBA star believes his team has yet to play at its full potential.

"I'm happy with the enthusiasm shown by the players, but we're still in the process of putting in the system," said Magsanoc.

"We can be happy now, but we can't stop. There will be challenges along the way and we should continue to learn from each other and improve."

San Beda hopes to produce a better start this time as it rounded to rally from 16 points down to edge Arellano.

Skipper Garvo Lim, Nic Salvagno and Baser Amer spurred the run that turned the tide for the Lions, although Magsanoc believes it was still his team's defense that spelled the difference.

The Bulldogs are also seeking a fourth straight victory against an Arellano team seeking semifinals after posting its first win under coach Oscar Hood.

LEAD Most Valuable Player Ray Parks a fresh off his finest performance of the pre-season, finishing with 29 points in NU's 83-79 victory over the Eastern U.

Semoor has plenty of weapons to keep UST on its toes with Greg Slaughter and Ricky Rivera posing matchup problems.

Tac, daughter Mica shine in SEA q'lifier

PADILLA: Shows she is on a roll in rapid-fire stage

THE FATHER AND SON team of reigning national champion Eastwood "Tac" Padilla and youthful national shooter Mica Padilla sparkled in two separate events of the ongoing Philippine National Shooting Association (PNSA) tryouts recently at the PSC range inside De Philippine Marines compound in Fort Bonifacio.

Tac, the only Filipino athlete to have represented the Philippines 17 times in the Southeast Asian Games, fired 560 points to beat Air Rifle Cdl. Connor Anthony Cunha by 17 points in the event's five-round event.

Mica, a 20-year-old incoming legal management junior at Ateneo, shot 553 points to edge Shanie Gonzales (551) and Gloria Colmenday (472) in the sport pistol competition.

Mica earned the national ranken in the 2009 SEA Games in Laos and the 2010 World Cup in Beijing. She's confident of bagging the ongoing tryouts for the SEA Championships to hone to podee with her dad.

"Colonel Cunha gave me a tough fight," said Tac Padilla, general manager of their family-owned Spring Cooking Oil. "I had to give my best in the rapid-fire stage to defend him off."

Cunha got off to a big start by posting 96/100 by one point in the first 20 shots of the slow fire stage, but Padilla responded to answer two points in the last 10 shots to inch ahead by one.

In the rapid-fire stage, Tac shot 289 against Cunha's 277 to pull away in the Air Pistol officer ended up with a 551 tally.

"Iron other SNP athletes...2nd Lt. Bert Napiñas and Cdl. Jocko Tevera—tallied 546 and 546, respectively, to finish third and fourth. Patrick Clemente came in fifth with 513, followed by Cdl. Elmer Manresa (482) and Marlo Advincula (473).

Badminton gets 'priority' coach

By Cedelf P. Tupas

THE PHILIPPINE badminton association has set its mission of achieving overnight success under Indonesian coach Rexy Mainaky a former Olympic gold medalist.

But officials of the badminton body believe it has found the right person to lead the country in its difficult climb to global recognition in a sport dominated by some of the Southeast Asian neighbors.

"He (Mainaky) will help us realize our dream," said Vice President Jojomar Bicoy, who is also the PBA president, yesterday at the PBA Forum at the Shakey's U.S. Avenue in Manila. "To get his services priority number one. He's our most experience coach."

The PBA did not say how much Mainaky will be receiving, but reports are rife that he could get up to $13,000 (roughly P500,000), to be shouldered by Negre Dominguez, Sun Cellular, Metro Pacific and the PSC.

Negros Occidental Rep. Alfredo Benitez, who serves as PBA secretary general, justified Mainaky's price tag, saying the Indonesian is a proved and proven coach at international level.

Mainaky has coached in England and Malaysia and turned down an offer to oversee in Russia, before taking the Philippine job.

Mainaky's crowning of the Southeast gold in Atlanta, is hoping he could build a team that will eventually qualify for the 2016 Olympics.

"That is my plan," said the 44-year-old. With a report from Jan Hallberton, Contributor

VOLLEYBELLES Participants of the 20 (1 Power Ladies' Beach Volleyball Tournament grace the PSA Forum to announce the staging of the second leg. Rizal Technological University bets Jaimee Abat and Jessa Arnaiz are favored to win event.

ICTSI golf: Tabuena, Dumandan favorites

By Manny S. Castillo

TRECE Martires, Cavite—All eyes will be on Miguel Tabuena and Marvin Dumandan when the P3.5- million ICTSI Illumenated Hills Challenge tees off here today.

Tabuena and Dumandan were the first two legs of the circuit and are just two of the dozen here in the 80-strong field even as a slew of other big guns try to claim the P450,000 champion's purse.

This leg will be the first of five 72-hole events in the Philippine Golf Tournament Inc. schedule this year, topped by the Philippine Open championship in June.

Frankie Minoza, the two-time Philippine Open champion whose last triumph on local soil happened at Wack Wack last December, is also entered and is also considered a dangerous customer.

The stands and glens-like greens are likewood chills' multi-defenses and scoring could be very low considering the several short holes of the layout that the field can attack.

Antonio Lascuña, the Asian Tour veteran who has seven wins in this Tour, is also tipped to contend well because of the short holes in the layout.

The event is headed by Mike Gill, Callaway, Motion, Srixon, Cartron Clubmakers, Wilson and Foot Joy reps, Support from Dynamic Diamond Inc., Diamonwater 1687, TPOAP and media partners Balls, A Board of Golf, Inquirer Golf, Smile 22, Pinoygolfer.com and Inquirer.

PHILADELPHIA forward Thaddeus Young (right) shoots over New Jersey's Gerald Wallace. The 76ers lost their final game in New Jersey. They are headed for Brooklyn, New York, next season. AP/FILE

Spurs nail West top seed; Sixers seal East roster

SAN ANTONIO—The San Antonio Spurs cemented their position as the Western Conference top seeds for the second year in a row after thrashing the Portland Trail Blazers, 114-89, on Monday.

Tim Duncan and Danel Green each scored 18 points as the Spurs overwhelmed Portland to finally see off the Oklahoma City Thunder as the men for bragging rights in the West.

San Antonio was stunned by Memphis in a first-round series defeat a season ago, though this year's Spurs appear far healthier and pose more clouds for a playoff run.

"We we showed last year, somebody can smash up and take you out just so easily [with home-court]," Duncan told reporters. "We're glad to have it. We will be prepared for our first-round opponent. Hopefully we'll get a much better effort."

Over in the East, the Philadelphia 76ers clinched the final postseason spot in the conference with a 103-87 rout of the New Jersey Nets.

No players scored in double-figures for the victory 76ers, who have are tattooed 34-30 record with the Knicks but are below New York by virtue of the tie-breaker between the teams with two games to play.

With the defeat, the Nets bar their final game in New Jersey. The team is headed for Brooklyn next season.

Meanwhile, Memphis beat Cleveland 105-101 to move within half a game of the Los Angeles Clippers for fourth spot in the West.

Both Grizzlies have two games remaining and are set to face each other in the first round of the playoffs.

At Washington, John Wall had 16 points and 14 assists, Nene scored 19 points and his "dearly had 10 points on 8-for-8 shooting as the Wizards handed the Charlotte Bobcats their 21st straight loss, 101-75.

At Indianapolis, Paul George scored 12 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter as Indiana downed Detroit, 103-97.

At Milwaukee, the Bucks ran out of the NBA playoffs, despite getting 25 points from Brandon Jennings in a 92-86 victory over the Toronto Raptors.

Milwaukee's postseason fate was determined earlier Monday night when Philadelphia beat New Jersey to clinch the eighth playoff berth in the Eastern Conference and eliminate the Bucks. Reuters, AP

PSC seals key sports deal with Russia

By Jose Mavoro

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission has struck a deal with Russian ministry of sports Vitaly Mutko, allowing Filipino athletes to train in the former capital of the Soviet Union, a sports superpower before its breakup in the early '90s.

PSC chair Richie Garcia said the memorandum of understanding covers the training of athletes, knowledge transfer for coaches and the use of Russia's ultramodern sports facilities not found in the Philippines.

Garcia said assisted sports wrestling and boxing as well as shooting and weightlifting would benefit from the MOU.

Garcia and Mutko signed the MOU during the translation of National Olympic Committees (Anoc) executives council meeting held last week in Moscow, Russia.

With Garcia in the five-day congregation were Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and POC secretary-general Steve Chan Steven.

"Aside from the training of athletes and coaches, we'll be exchanging ideas and programs on sports medicine and sports science," said Garcia. "They [also] offered exhibition games pitting the Russian basketball team with our national team."

GARCIA

"We'll have it that Arlyn stands to gain a bigger revenue from Charon, whose by is co-managing with Bill Bunin." The source added.

* * *

Except perhaps for Manny, nobody is the Peregrino camp seems to like Arlyn, who is said to have become so arrogant.

He also does not go along well with the camp's ace in Tom Peregrino, namely, Beach, business manager Michael Koren and Top Rank CEO Bob Arum, who labeled him "unprofessional."

Arlyn left the Peregrino Training camp with the promise that he will remain with the Peregrino in Los Angeles after two weeks.

If Manny believed this promise, Beach certainly did not, mainly because of the latter's insistence.

Beach warned that the Peregrino and Chavez fights are just a week apart.

Beach said Arlyn can only rejoin Team Peregrino if he abandons Chavez in the crucial phase of his training. Would he do that?

Everyone was indifferent to Arlyn.

Checkmate sets chess assembly

A GRAND-SLAM assembly among the 2012 first finish semifinal of the Mike-sponsored Checkmate clinics will be held on 9 a.m. on April 29 at Sines Cyberpad Carmelitas in Quezon City.

The semifinal will be treated to an age-group tournament and simultaneous exhibition by chess legend master numerous.

The top four winners in various age groups (7-under, 9-under, 11-under, and juniors category) and the victors against masters will be awarded medals.

Special trophies, the one for the most improved players, and certificates of participation will also be handed out by Mike.

Meanwhile, special Checkmate classes in the National Capital Region will be offered starting on April 30. Free level classes in Ugo, Caloocan, San Pablo, Dagupan and Tarlac begin on May 5.

For details, call (632) 8330519, (632) 7561300 or (632) 370-0808 or visit Mike Cheekyuan Ona Chess and Sports academy free book page.

Ariza prioritizing Chavez over Pacquiao?

THE OUTSIDE Manny Pacquiao training camp was stunned when it learned Saturday that conditioning coach Alex Ariza had left Baguio in a huff.

Camp members only discovered that Ariza was missing when trainer Freddie Roach looked for his driver and was told that he had returned to Manila with his wife, who was courting a flight for the United States.

More than being irritated that he had to take a taxi going to the gym, Roach was shocked at Ariza's sudden departure.

Roach probably guessed that he did not know about it beforehand.

* * *

"Ariza is headed for the Hollywood Chavez Jr. training camp in the United States, which he obviously gave priority to over Pacquiao. He chose Chavez Jr. over Manny and Amir Khan, who was also training under him in Baguio," read a text message I received last Saturday, moments after he landed in the City of Pines.

Chavez's fight is next on June 16 while Manny clashes with Tim Bradley a week earlier on June 9.

"Word has it that Ariza stands to gain a bigger revenue from Chavez, whose by is co-managing with Bill Bunin." The source added.

* * *

Except perhaps for Manny, nobody is the Peregrino camp seems to like Arlyn, who is said to have become so arrogant.

He also does not go along well with the camp's ace in Tom Peregrino, namely, Beach, business manager Michael Koren and Top Rank CEO Bob Arum, who labeled him "unprofessional."

Arlyn left the Peregrino Training camp with the promise that he will remain with the Peregrino in Los Angeles after two weeks.

If Manny believed this promise, Beach certainly did not, mainly because of the latter's insistence.

Beach warned that the Peregrino and Chavez fights are just a week apart.

Beach said Arlyn can only rejoin Team Peregrino if he abandons Chavez in the crucial phase of his training. Would he do that?

Everyone was indifferent to Arlyn.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Cebis

Manny was the only one who stood up for him.

* * *

Last Monday, a visitor of Arlyn's last night was shown on TV news. It was also Arlyn's birthday that Friday night and he was celebrating with Manny and the group.

In the video, Arlyn and Manny were seated side by side and they were very close, with the visitor giving Manny his full attention, practically spoon-feeding him.

"Pinagbibigyan pa nga ng sandaan si Arlyn si Manny, parang siya na nagpapakain ng alaga. Di ba nga, even chatting seafood for Manny, like a nanay feeding a child," said my source.

My guess is that Arlyn was homesick and he asked his permission to take a leave.

I don't know what was in the food Arlyn had tasted, but I think the latter knew he was leaving the following day because he gave him his permission, even treating the driver assigned to Beach.

Arlyn probably asked for it as a birthday gift to him.

* * *

Yesterday I asked my assistants if any one had tried to get the ashes of Arlyn.

One of the younger scribes said he still was probably gained because Arlyn had just arrived from the airport.

He said Manny gave him permission to leave. He said he will be reporting back for active duty in the Peregrino camp two months hence. In Los Angeles, the scribe is to "do work," said the scribe who obviously did not believe him.

Meantime, Beach assigned former amateur boxer Marvin Sonsuson to take over the task left by Arlyn, whose departure could have been something everyone had been waiting for.

Except Manny.

SPORTSWATCH

Pasay 'Big Event' slated Friday

A SELECT group of top runners from Pasay City and Silliman will be pitted against Metro Manila stars in a run-of-the-mill Metro Manila Big Event & Cook Derby set to run Friday at Pasay City Stadium.

The day-long derby will stage at least 80 quality fights, according to PCC pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Bobby Claro.

Sen. Gringo Honasan and Ting Concebida will host the event.

Participants must present their entries at the PCC office tomorrow from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Meanwhile, the semifinal round of the 1st Inquirer National 8-Cock Derby gets going on Monday at the same venue.

For inquiries, call 843-1988, 840-1746 or 895-8750.

BY TOP CHOICE
At San Lazaro LF

Pascua leads national junior chess early winners

FIDE MASTER Rastelan Pascua beat Joey Albert Hurendo to rise the lead after six rounds in the opening round of the National Junior Chess Championships grand finals at the Event Center in Tacurong, Sultan gun, on Monday.

Johnny Barros, winner of the just-concluded Dagupan Bangus Festival, Mayor Benjamin S. Lim Cup Chess Tournament, in the rate-chess was Dave Angelo Medina, Evan Rabaya Gaoll, Joel Nunezca Jr. and Rahman Rahden.

Medina moved from Fredy Bisoy Gaoll ripped Jan Francis Manuel. Pascua beat Rashied Akon Abu Dato, and Rahden beat Chester Aaron Cupallo.

Preparing junior boys titlist National Master Mari Joseph Turqueza settled for a draw with Jose Carlo Cantos. FM Emile Beramina had a bye.

Veteran National Master Jonelle Mar Prayze kicked off her bid for a second straight junior girls title by downing Adelaide Joi Lim.

Other opening day winners were IWFM Jedara Doonia and Jan Jodilyn Poenia, Lorraine Salinas and Carol Anne Chua.

The junior titlists will represent the country in the 2012 World Junior Chess Championships in Mexico, Mexico.

The favorites also took charge early in the grand finals of the National Age Group Championships.

Marc Christian Manuel, Lorenzo Hart Salgados, Mohamadnur Lagada and Alexis Basil Madloo won their first round matches in Boys Under-20.

WFM Marie Antoinette Ann Dego, Nikki Ellen Pagaoa and siblings Aiden Charmaine and Aliker Darlene Sandoval winners in the Girls Under-20 while Jerad Stevens spearheaded the Boys U-16 winners.

For inquiries, call the PSO office at (02) 563-3838 or (02) 563-3828.

SOUTHWOODS CHAMPS Brothers Philip (left) and Butch Bradoc display their trophies as they pose with Southwoods director Freddie Mendoza (second from left) and golf director Jim Reyes after winning the two-ballsome crown in the Manila Southwoods Invitational recently.

New 'Bullang' entry record seen

THE P10-MILLION NPOY Bullang Bullang 8-Bullang Derby national series is on its way to achieving a new record in a number of registered entries.

Spearheaded by the well-organized Sinulid Federation of Grassfed Breeders, the "Bullang-Bullang" has attracted 601 entries so far with 139 more rounds left.

Fights will be held today at San Jose Mega Cockpit with members of the powerful Bataan Breeders Club (BBC) of Fred Garfinkel acting as host.

Tomorrow, participants will compete at Pasig Sports Center in Pasig City, PSC Coliseum in Tarlac, New Tabuay Sports Complex in Cebu and Negros Coliseum in Negros.

Elimination bouts will have their elimination rounds on April 27 at Aquino Coliseum in Tarlac.

The well-attended "Bullang" derbies will also be fought at Candon Cockpit on April 27 and at Laoag Sports Center on April 30, and Dr. Jed Nakapon of Ilocos.

"Those who failed to qualify will be given one last chance to compete on April 30 at Pasig Sports Garden," said NPGB executive director Ronnie Lazaro.

For inquiries, call the PSO office at (02) 563-3838 or (02) 563-3828.

9AM
CHECK YOUR TWEETS!

12PM
CHECK YOUR PROFILE!

3PM
CHECK WHO'S ONLINE!

6PM
CHECK YOUR EMAIL!

Pwede ka nang magpa-check check ng online life anytime you want for less than P10 a day!

Introducing
SMART BROADBAND
Always On 299

Enjoy 300MB of data and send 2,300 IMs, share 340 status updates, or post 360 tweets whenever, wherever you want for 30 days!

Text **ON 299** to **2200**

SMART
LIVE MORE

Data plans are also available to SMART Prepaid Internet subscribers.
Maximum GPRS speed of 10 Mbps at 80% service reliability rate.

ABC Ref. No. 3150PM420128

Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

Katipunan community has last say on U-turns

By A.CASE where locals, not motorists, were given a say on traffic measures, schools and residents on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City, agreed to close a U-turn slot in front of La Vista subdivision starting next week. The decision was reached in a meeting held on Monday by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority with representatives of Ateneo de Manila, Miriam College, La Vista homeowners, Sienagay Loyola Heights and the city government. The MMDA is set to consult more residents and establishments on whether U-turns improve or worsen traffic in their areas. **Mike Blanden**

DAVIES CLEAN AIR
PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM INDOOR AIR POLLUTION
Neutralizes formaldehyde
Ultra low VOC
Passed Purificatory Performance of Coating with Air Purification Test (JC/T 1074-2008)
Bacteria, fungus and mould resistant
An Indoor Air-Purifying System you apply with a brush!
www.davieswalls.com.ph 570-7000

Real bullets used vs rocks, bottles

Probe on over P'que riot; 16 cops detained

By Nathaniel R. Mallonn

AMID calls for an inquiry into Monday's deadly riot at Silverio Compound in Parañaque City, the local police chief yesterday admitted that his men used live ammunition to deal with the rock-throwing residents, but maintained that only warning shots were fired.

"There were no rubber bullets used. We used either blank or live bullets," Senior Supt. Billy Beltran told the Inquirer on the phone.

"We have already identified at least eight policemen from the city's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) division who fired live bullets. But these were warning shots," Beltran said.

He added that the eight SWAT members were among the 16 policemen whose firearms were confiscated and who were detained at the Parañaque police headquarters pending an investigation.

But the city police chief defended the actions taken by his men, saying they had shots fired in self-defense when residents opposing the court-ordered demolition of a flea market at the compound began throwing rocks, molotov cocktails and other objects.

"We were just in our ammunition area when we were attacked. We were not in formation yet, and we were attacked while the other residents were still negotiating," he said.

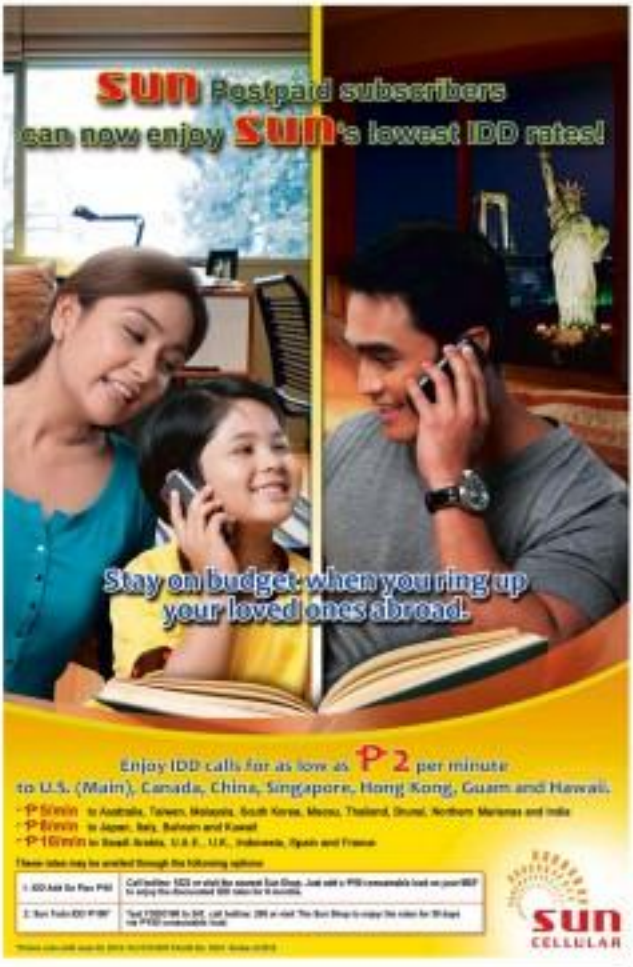
"If the police acted that way, it was all in their defense. They were placed in a situation which they could no longer tolerate," Beltran added.

He also noted that "most of the attackers were not residents of Silverio. They're no longer protesters but attackers and a mob ready to harm and ready to kill," he said.

Beltran, who said he would welcome an investigation of any sanction, noted that there were only between 200 and 300 policemen deployed at the site on Sucat Road to control an angry mob of around 1,500.

In Camp Crame, PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Generoso Cerbo Jr. said: "If any wrongdoing was committed on our end ... (the responsible officers and men) will be meted (out) the appropriate punishment."

The bloody dispersal, which left one resident dead and at least 30 others injured, reunited calls for an investigation from Congress, the justice and interior departments, and the human rights commission, as well as



WALKING WOUNDED Illinois Congressional resident Rhonnica Johnshon shows his injury as the Department of Justice on Tuesday.

Real bullets used

From page A11

from military rebels from government troops.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines asked Malacañang to impose a moratorium on clan demolitions, saying the government's lack of a solid relocation plan for evicted informal settlers.

The Southern Police District (SPD), which has jurisdiction over Parañaque, has formed Task Force Silencio to investigate the incident, but a rare morning charges against 33 protesters, including two women and eight minors, who were arrested.

In Quezon City, members of the militant Kadamay tried to stage a rally in front of President Aquino's ancestral house on Tomas Morato avenue to protest the violent demolition.

But the protesters, who came with a mock black coffin, were only allowed by police to hold the mass action a street away from the Aquino home. With reports from Bel Inja, Joseph Ubina, Manny Carvajal, JJ Burgonio and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

18-minute fire kills boy, hurts mom, sister in QC

By Haisy C. Corvajal

A FIRE which broke out in a shanty in Quezon City raged for only 18 minutes although it left a 3-year-old boy dead and his mother and younger sister injured.

Arson investigator SFO2 Bonifacio Alda of the Quezon City Fire Department identified the victim as Mark Gonzalo, a resident of Barangay Payatas.

His mother, Rina, 23, and 2-year-old sister, Elaine, suffered burns and were taken to East Avenue Medical Center where they remain confined. Alda was being treated for third degree burns on her back and her daughter for first degree burns on her hands and feet.

Alda said the fire broke out at 3:07 a.m. yesterday and was put out 18 minutes later. It did not spread beyond the victims' house which did not have electricity.

"The victim's shanty was separated by a vacant lot which the family had converted into a vegetable garden," he said.

According to the arson investigator, Rina, the victims' mother, told fire officers that they were all asleep when a candle they had lighted fell beside the bed where they were all lying, leading to the fire.

Alda said that when she realized what was happening, she took her daughter and threw her out of the window.

She then started looking for Mark but failed to find him because of the thick smoke that had started to spread inside their house.

She said she crawled about on the floor, trying to feel around for her son but was forced to jump out of their house after her clothes caught on fire.

METROBRIEFS

Manila cops looking for 'Boy Bawang'

WHO HE drove by at irrational fear of "salvang" or salvagers said to snag cash? Policemen are trying to pick up the scent left by a spice dealer's servant boy who was off with 20 packs of garlic on Monday morning. Supt. Rolando Nodora, Manila Police District Makiwan, Tondo station commander, said that the 22-year-old suspect Hanson Lindy, as Jane Pay was ordered by his employer, Jaime Bondad, to deliver the P20,000 worth of garlic to a stall in Divisoria. Jane Pay, however, failed to return and the sacks of garlic disappeared along with him, prompting Bondad to file a theft complaint against him.

Jessamin I. Andrade and Julliane de Jesus

Chinese man gets life term for 4 kilos of shabu

A SUCON City court yesterday sentenced a Chinese man to a life behind bars after a raid on his house in 2009 yielded nearly four kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" worth P20 million. In addition, Judge Antonio Eugar Jr. of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 78 also fined Zhong Min Chen (P3.5 million. "In a prosecution for illegal possession of dangerous drugs, the indictment fails to show the prosecution beyond reasonable doubt, [namely] (1) that the accused is in possession of the object identified as a prohibited or a regulated drug; (2) that such possession is not authorized by law; and (3) that the accused freely and consciously possessed the said drug," Eugar said in his ruling. Chong was arrested during a raid on his apartment in Barangay Bungad, Quezon City, based on a search warrant served by the police.

Julie M. Aurelio

Man who killed Chinese couple shot dead

A MAN who robbed and killed a Chinese couple and their used their 3-year-old son as a human shield was killed in a shoot-out with the police in Pandacan, Barangay 139, Caloocan City, on Monday night. The robber, who had yet to be identified, was described as between 25 and 30 years old, 5'7" to 5'8" tall with curly hair and of slim build. The couple were identified as Lin Qing Hai and his wife, owners of 88 Mart and Gardenia Merchandise, and limited Supt. Jade Santos, Caloocan police chief. Santos said the robber had made the wrong enemy since, killed the couple and remained the outstanding hero. When the police arrived, he took hostage the couple's 3-year-old son but was gunned down by lawmen. The boy was later rescued unharmed.

Kristine Fabien Marquez and Marvin Laguna

Another eviction looms: PCGG claims Payanig tenants' rent unpaid since '08

By Tarra Quismundo

CLAIMING unpaid rent, the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) has sought the eviction of nine tenants from Payanig sa Pasig, the formerly private lot that was surrendered to the government in 1986 by an associate of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

The PCGG this week filed in the Pasig City Regional Trial Court a complaint against the tenants for failure to pay rent since September 2008.

The property is a prime triangle lot fronting Ortigas, Meralco and Julia Vargas Avenues.

"The tenants have not been paying their rent for more than three years, to the damage and prejudice of the government," the PCGG said in a statement.

The respondents include the owners of the following commercial establishments: Gryppll Plaza, Tomorrow Golf Philippines Inc., Uncle Mac's Harvest on Fish, Nature's, Golfwerx, Bugsy's Bar and Restaurant, Angel's Pizza, Brooklyn Pizza and Tijuana's Burritos Grill Corp.

The PCGG said it sent demand letters to the tenants last year through the Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp., which manages the property.

"The tenants unjustifiably refused to comply and to this day continue to occupy subject premises," said the PCGG.

The commission also asked the court to order the immediate return of the property to the government and for damages as "reasonable compensation" for the commercial use of the land since 2006.

The 18.5-ha Pasig lot was among the properties that Marcos associate Jose Yao Campos surrendered to the government in 1986 after the dictator was deposed. The lot was believed to be part of Marcos' ill-gotten wealth.

STAR PROPERTIES NATIONWIDE SEALED BIDDING 2012

Deadline of submission of bids MAY 8, 2012 5:00 PM (STAR Head Office)

Only 10% Bid Deposit required • Cash or up to 2 years In-house financing

GREATER MANILA AREA

NORTH LUZON

SOUTH LUZON

Rob convict captured while tilling farm

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Julliane de Jesus

AN NBI team for the 28 most wanted bank robbers in the country, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) were led to the 43-year old "farmer" tilling his land in Oriquieta City.

Crispin Bongolo Jr., of Barangay Lower Rizal, Oriquieta City was presented to the media yesterday as an alleged member of the Amparo Colangco robbery group said to be behind at least four bank heists in Metro Manila.

NBI Deputy Director for Investigation Service Rizal Lazala said Bongolo was captured on the second week of April while he was working on a farm in his home city.

Lazala said Bongolo was part of the armed group that got away with P16 million from Banco de Oro on SM South Mall in Las Piñas City on Aug. 7, 2008. Five security guards were wounded in the robbery.

Bongolo also allegedly took part in the June 27, 2007, robbery at the Philippine Savings bank in Cainta, where P171,000 were stolen; the Jan. 22, 2008, hit on Landbank Plaza Avenue in Quezon City, where robbers took off with P1 million; and the Aug. 11, 2008, armored van robbery at Blue Wave Mall on Boni Serrano Ave. in Greenhills, San Juan City, where P2 million were stolen.

Lazala said Bongolo had been convicted for the 2004 Banco de Oro heist.

Ayala Malls

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For reference, please call 729-7777.

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
OPENS TODAY AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

WORLDBRIEFS

Dutch Cabinet quits

THE HAGUE—Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's liberal government quit on Monday after the collapse of a parliamentary partnership with a far-right party, paving the way for early elections. The snap decision paves the leadership for Cabinet's resignation to Queen Beatrix, a few hours before she officially plans to sit around Europe. A few minutes after Rutte left the Dutch government's information service said in a statement: "Prime Minister Mark Rutte has offered to her Majesty the Queen the resignation of all ministers and deputy ministers with immediate effect." After a two-hour meeting, "the Queen is considering the resignation, but has asked all ministers and deputy ministers to continue to do everything that's reasonably in the interests of the kingdom," the statement added. AFP

Black teen's killer leaves jail

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—Former neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman was charged with second-degree murder in the killing of unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin, was released early on Monday from a Florida county jail on $150,000 bail. Wearing a brown jacket and pants and carrying a brown paper bag, Zimmerman walked out of the John E. Polk Correctional Facility in Sanford, Florida, moments after midnight after posting bail and meeting other conditions set for his release of a hearing on Friday. Zimmerman was met by another man and quickly ducked into a late-model white BMW that drove off. Reuters

China punishes 20 officials

BEIJING—Chinese authorities have punished 20 officials and former village leaders after the community in southern China engaged in mass protests over land disputes that drove out local officials. The Xinhua News Agency said the former Communist Party chief of Wukan village in Guangdong province and the former head of the village committee were expelled from the ruling party and ordered to return nearly $41,000 in what it described as illegal gains. The other former village officials and a township town official were also punished, Xinhua said. AP

Saudi hostage release foiled

SOFIA—Talks that looked set to secure the release of a South African diplomat kidnapped in Yemen broke off on Monday when the six-hour hit members of the militant group suspected of holding him, said a tribal leader involved in the negotiations. Abdullah al-Khaldi, the Yemeni deputy consul in the port city of Aden, was seized yesterday as he was driving to work. Reuters

Hudson testifies at murder trial

HUDSON

CHICAGO—Academy Award winner Jennifer Hudson, choking back tears, testified on Monday how no one in her family seemed here sister to worry. She must who is accused of murdering her mother, brother and nephew.

"We didn't like the way he treated her, and I didn't like the way he treated my nephew," the 30-year-old singer and actress told a Chicago court where William Balfour stands accused of first-degree murder.

Balfour, the estranged husband of Julie Hudson, is charged with the killing of Jennifer's 2008 birthday gunshot killings of Hudson's mother Darnell Donerson, 57; her brother Jason Hudson, 29; and 7-year-old nephew Julian King.

Prosecutors alleged that Balfour, also 30, who pleaded not guilty, acted out of spite after his estranged wife—the mother of Julian King—told him she wanted a divorce.

Jennifer Hudson was the first witness to take the stand on day one of the much-anticipated trial, which opened with Judge Charles Burns closely admitting jurors to receive judgment until they hear all the evidence.

In their opening statements, prosecutors offered a chilling account of the murders, attempting to paint Balfour as a violent, cold-blooded killer who repeatedly threatened his alleged victims in the months before they died. AFP

Obama imposes new sanctions on Syria, Iran

OBAMA

WASHINGTON—US President Barack Obama on Monday ordered new sanctions on Syria and Iran and the "digital guns for hire" who help them suppress their people with surveillance software and monitoring technology.

Obama announced additions to the pile of US sanctions already faced by the two governments as part of a wider effort to crack down on human rights abuses, terrorism and genocide at a speech at the US Holocaust Museum.

The measures will hit the two governments but also companies that help create systems that lead to murder their people for filling, torture or other abuses and prevent individuals involved from entering the United States.

"I've signed an executive order that authorizes new sanctions against the Syrian government and Iran and those that abet them for using technologies to monitor and crack and target citizens for violence," Obama said.

"Those technologies should be in place to empower citizens, not to repress them.

"It's not more important we can take toward the day that we know will come, the end of the Bashar al-Assad regime that has brutalized the Syrian people, and allow the Syrian people to shape their own destiny."

The move blocks property and interests of people under US jurisdiction who have participated in aiding the Syrian and Iranian governments and suspends their right of entry into the United States.

It targets those who have sold, leased or otherwise provided goods, services or technology to Iran or Syria likely to be used to help disrupt, monitor or track dissidents through computer or Internet networks.

Since the start of the Arab Spring, a number of Western firms have been accused of supplying technology and software to suppressive regimes, which has been used to track democratic movements and dissidents.

Technology has been used by security forces to disrupt communications, locate mobile phones, text messages and social media like Twitter and Facebook to assemble and organize protests.

Last year, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urged Internet firms to avoid offering the "tools of oppression" to authoritarian Middle Eastern regimes.

When companies sell overall, Iranian equipment to the security agency of a Syria, or Iraq, or to post-times Germany Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi, how are we to decide that it will be used to violate rights," she said. AFP

EU sanctions lifting seen to revive Burma industry

RANGOON—Looking across a sea of young workers perched behind rows of buzzing sewing machines, factory owner Myint Soe has one main hope for Monday's suspension of European sanctions on Burma (Myanmar)—the restoration of some of the 80,000 garment industry jobs lost here over the past 10 years.

A complex web of Western trade embargoes imposed on the Southeast Asian nation since the late 1990s was supposed to punish its now-dismissed former military rulers for years of atrocity and human rights abuses. But the powerful established laborers suffered far more than the regime, and many lost crucial jobs that could restore cash to families.

On Monday, the European Union confirmed it was suspending most of its sanctions to reward Burma's recent wave of political reforms. The announcement is the biggest rollback yet, and many hope are hoping emboldened leaders will win the West will yield badly needed growth.

"For us, it's simple. This means new job opportunities for our people," said Myint Soe, who also chairs Burma's National Manufacturers Association. "We're hoping for new contracts, new orders...we're hoping to open more factories."

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who announced Monday that he will visit Burma this weekend at President Thein Sein's invitation, said there is "an unprecedented opportunity" to help promote reconciliation to democracy.

"We must make the most of this moment," But told reporters. "We need to see more such progress, more international support for Burma's efforts to bring about democratic change."

The sanctions announcement Burma's former Army rulers and domestically dominated lucrative investment and trade with the United States and Europe. Bans on international financial transactions were in effect that even today, top international hotels in Rangoon can only accept cash, not credit cards.

In recent months, though, the West has begun rewarding Burma's new government for widely praised progress toward democratic rule. The government has freed political prisoners, signed truces with ethnic groups and suspended April 1 by-elections demand free and fair that were overwhelmingly won by opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party. AP

TOYOTA REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Regional Contribution Award

Quality. Productivity. Attention to Detail. The keys to an outstanding performance.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) congratulates Autocarpets, Inc. (ACI), the first Filipino company to receive the Regional Contribution Award from Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC), Japan. ACI was one of the only five (5) Regional Contribution Awardees in 2012.

As TMP's supplier of floor carpets and other interior parts, ACI is a consistent TMP awardee in quality performance for achieving zero-defect in delivered goods. This is a result of its commitment to continuous improvement initiatives and consistent implementation of the Toyota Production System.

TMP takes pride in ACI's achievement which is a testament to the global quality of Filipino companies and workers. As Toyota considers the success of each business partner a building block towards nation building, TMP remains committed to support its auto parts makers in terms of technology and knowledge transfer to continuously promote quality and productivity excellence to further strengthen domestic vehicle production.

Mr. Michimitsu Sugata
President
Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation

Mr. Rafael Villarreal
President
Autocarpets, Inc.

ACI Autocarpets, Inc.

TOYOTA moving forward

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

North Korea readies 3rd nuke test

BEIJING—North Korea has almost completed preparations for a third nuclear test, a senior source with close ties to Pyongyang and Beijing told Reuters, which will draw further international condemnation following a failed rocket launch if it goes ahead.

The isolated and impoverished state unofficially ended the chance of closer ties with the United States when it launched the long-range rocket on April 13 and was censured by the UN Security Council, including the Stalinist state's major ally, China.

Critics say the rocket launch was aimed at honing the North's ability to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of hitting the United States, a move that would dramatically increase its military and diplomatic heft.

Now the North appears to be about to carry out a third nuclear test after two in 2006 and 2009. "Soon. Preparations are almost complete," the source said when asked whether North Korea was planning to conduct a nuclear test.

This is the first time a senior official has confirmed the planned test and the source has currently predicted events in the past, telling Reuters about the 2006 test days before it happened.

The rocket launch and nuclear test come as Kim Jong-un, the child of Kim Jong-il to rule North Korea, seeks to cement his grip on power.

Kim took office in December and has headed the country's military might, vindicating his father's "military first" policies that have strained economic development and appearing to dash dim hopes of an opening to the outside world.

Washington, Seoul and Tokyo, which have most to fear from any North Korean nuclear threat, are watching events nervously and many observers say that Pyongyang may have the capacity to conduct a test using highly enriched uranium for the first time.

Defense experts say that by successfully combining uranium, to make bombs of the type it dropped on Nagasaki nearly 70 years ago, the North would be able to significantly build up stocks of weapons-grade nuclear material.

It would also allow it more easily to manufacture a nuclear warhead to mount on a long-range missile.

The source did not specify whether the test would be a third test using plutonium, of which it has limited stocks, or whether Pyongyang would use uranium.

South Korean defense sources have been quoted in domestic media as saying a launch could come within two weeks and one North Korean analyst has suggested that it could come as early as the North's "Sun Day" on Wednesday.

Other observers say that any date is pure speculation.

The rocket launch and the planned nuclear test have exposed the limits of China's hold over Pyongyang. Beijing is the North's sole major ally and props up the state with investment and aid.

"China is like a chameleon toward North Korea," said Han Yeong-sun, professor of political sciences at Sogang University in Seoul. "It says it objects to North Korea's provocative acts, but it does not participate in punishing the North." Reuters

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
[illegible]
April 23, 2012
NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF APPROVED/DENIED
FOR NEW EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (EP)

	Name and address of Company/Employer	Name and nationality of Foreign National	Position and brief description of Functions
1.	ACADEMY ELECTRIC MOBILE, INC. [illegible]	Mr. [illegible] Korean	Admin Manager
2.	PHOENIX PHILSTONES, INC. [illegible]	Mr. [illegible] Thai and Taiwanese	Assistant Vice President for Production / Mining
3.	SAM-IN PHILIPPINES, INC. [illegible]	Mr. [illegible] Taiwanese	Quality Control Supervisor

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application(s), please communicate with this Regional Director.

[illegible]
OIC – Regional Director

To avoid all fees and delays, payment and endorsement guidance services, visit the nearest Public Employment Service Office (PESO) or log on at www.getitdone.ph

'Bin Laden wanted 9/11 follow-up attack'

NEW YORK—A British man who trained to be a slow bomber a decade ago says Osama bin Laden told him shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks that he believed a follow-up terrorism assault could doom the American economy.

Saajid Badat recounted his surveying with the al-Qaida founder in videotaped testimony that was played on Monday for a federal jury in Brooklyn.

"So he told the American economy is like a chain," Badat said. "If you break one—one link of the chain—the whole economy will be brought down. It's all on the Sept. 11 attacks, this operation will ruin the economy indirectly and in turn the whole economy will come down."

Badat, 31, was sentenced in London in a 2003 case known as Operation Crevice. Eight years ago in Miami with explosives hidden in his shoes. His testimony came in the federal trial of a man accused in a 2009 plot to attack New York's subways with suicide bombs.

Badat said he was supposed to carry out a plot to coordinate with failed shoe-bomber Richard Reid but he backed out because of his reluctance, fear and the effort it would have on his family. AP

THIS COMPUTER-GENERATED image shows a conceptual rendering of a spacecraft preparing to capture a water-rich, near-Earth asteroid.

Tech billionaires plan to mine asteroids

WASHINGTON—A group of high-tech 'geeks' wants to mine nearby asteroids, hoping to turn science fiction into real profits.

The megamillion-dollar plan is to use commercially built robotic ships to squeeze rocket fuel and valuable minerals like platinum and gold out of the lifeless rocks that routinely whiz by Earth. One of the company founders predicts they could have their version of a space-based gas station up and running by 2020.

The inaugural step, to be achieved in the next 10 to 20 months, would be launching the first in a series of private telescopes that would search for risky asteroids on collision courses.

Several scientists not involved in the project said they were simultaneously thrilled and skeptical, calling the plan daring, difficult—and highly expensive. They struggle to see how it could be mine efficient, even with planned water and gold worth nearly $1,000 an ounce. An asteroid's 'mine mission is return just 40 grams of its asteroid to Earth will cost about $1 billion.

But the entrepreneurs announcing the project on Tuesday in Seattle have a track record of making big moves off terrestrial one space. Company founders Eric Anderson and Peter Diamandis pioneered the idea of selling rides into space to tourists and, Diamandis' company offers "weightless" airplane flights.

Investors and advisers to the new company, Planetary Resources Inc. of Seattle, include Google CEO Larry Page and executive chair Eric Schmidt, and explorer and filmmaker James Cameron.

The mining, had prevailing and later refueling would all be done without humans, Anderson said.

"It is the stuff of science fiction, but like in so many other areas of science fiction, it's possible to begin the process of making them reality," said former astronaut Thomas Jones, an adviser to the company.

The target-hunting telescopes would be taken only a couple of feet long, weighing only a few dozen pounds and small enough to be held in your hand. They should cost less than $100 million, company officials said.

The idea that asteroids could be mined for resources has been around for years. Asteroids are the leftovers of a failed attempt to form a planet billions of years ago. Most of the remnants between the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, but some pieces were pushed out to roam the solar system.

Asteroids are made mostly of rock and metal, and range from a couple of dozen feet wide to nearly 10 miles long. The new venture targets the less flying asteroids, seeking to extract from them the rare Earth platinum metals that are used in batteries, catalytic converters and medical devices, Diamandis said.

Water can be broken down in space to liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen for rocket fuel. Water is very expensive to get off the ground, so the plan is to take it from an asteroid to a spot in Earth orbit where it can be sold, Diamandis said. From there, it can easily and cheaply be shipped to Earth orbit for refueling commercial satellites or spaceships from Nasa and other countries. AP

BOOK AND BUY YOUR TICKETS AT THE NEW ENHANCED SURESEATS.COM

The beginning of an even better cinema experience. Now available at Ayala Malls Cinemas. Only from Ayala Malls Cinemas.

SURESEATS.COM

Norway killer hoped to have killed more

OSLO—The Norwegian who massacred 77 people in terrorist-style attacks against Muslim immigration to Europe said on Monday he had hoped to kill as many as 150 and kept on killing because police failed to respond urgently in his phone call.

Breivik has given a detailed account of his car-bomb attack at government headquarters in Oslo on July 22, which killed eight people, followed hours later by the shooting of 69 people, mostly teenagers, at a Labour Party island camp.

He said on Monday his "gruesome" actions were to prevent a civil war caused, he said, by a Muslim takeover of Europe.

"This was a minor barbarity to prevent a larger one," he said on the ninth day of a trial that has mesmerised Norway.

"For seven years I prepared such a horrendous ... gruesome act as this. But it was necessary." Breivik said in his usual tone, lacking emotion. "It was much more cruel than I expected."

Breivik said he thought that at least another 150 people had drowned in a lake as they fled. He gave up on the called police to surrender, only to find himself forced to leave a message.

"I said, 'Call me back when you get the right person,'" Breivik said. "I told myself I will continue until the phone rings." I thought, I will continue until I die. What would I have done, sit by the pier waiting?"

Breivik has denied criminal guilt, insisting his victims were "traitors" whose multicultural ideas facilitated what he sees as a de facto Muslim invasion of Europe. Reuters

Now accepting bookings for May to July 2012.

So for real quality shows, catch the limelight at Onstage Greenbelt

For bookings & inquiries, please call 755-7543 & 755-3001 or 02.

Greenbelt

The Ayala Malls Cinemas GIFT CARD

A great way to show your appreciation to family, friends and colleagues. Give them the gift that everyone enjoys!

Available at any Ayala Malls Cinemas ticket booth.

Chavez calls home to say he's still alive

CARACAS—A healthy sounding President Hugo Chavez called Venezuelan state television from Cuba on Monday to dispel rumors fanned by a nine-day silence that he had died undergoing cancer treatment in a hospital in Havana.

"It seems we will have to become accustomed to the catch these rumors, because it is part of the laboratories of psychological war, of dirty war," the 57-year-old socialist leader said in the telephone call.

Since leaving for Cuba on April 14 to undergo radiation treatments for an undisclosed cancer, Chavez had only addressed Venezuelans by short messages on Twitter in client supporters and hail the advances of his socialist "revolution."

His unusually long silence stirred speculation about his health and raised doubts about his political future as he campaigns for reelection to an Oct. 7 vote.

Chavez said the cancer therapy was "hard" and he vomited or was, but that he was recovering and planned to return to Caracas on Thursday...although he would need another radiation session.

"Some people would like us not the times have spinning ... and yet, it's not recover. I have to rest and look after my diet, the treatment and the hours I keep," Chavez said. "These rumors sometimes are damaging."

He said the rumors about the health were so strong they even had his readers worried and he had to call his phone company to prove he was still alive.

Photos released by the Venezuelan government showed Chavez wearing a track suit and strolling in a garden in Havana with Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro, playing bowls with his brother Adan, and kissing a crucifix as he hugged his daughter Maria Gabriela.

Information Minister Andres Izarra posted the photos on his Facebook page with the title "Chavez alive and kicking."

Opposition candidate Henrique Capriles criticized Chavez for running the oil-producing nation remotely by Twitter from a Havana hospital bed. One of the president's last acts when he returned will be to sign a new labor law to take effect on May 1. Reuters

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Biz Buzz: One wild card down /B2
■ SM Prime net P2.43B in Q1 /B4
■ Meralco boosts capex budget for 2012 /B2-1
■ Zest Airways eyes Middle East flights /B2-4

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Ayala, Metro Pacific team up for LRT bids

Together, firms stand a chance to bag vital projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

METRO Pacific Investments Corp. and Ayala Corp. have formed an "exclusive" alliance to pursue and develop light railway transit (LRT) projects in greater Metro Manila, beginning with those included in the government's public-private partnership program.

In forming the alliance, both companies will acquire greater financial clout to pursue hefty unsolicited railway projects such as Metro Rail-way Transit-3 upgrade and rehabilitation, and the LRT-1 extension from Baclaran to Cavite.

"The two groups are bitter rivals in the telecommunications industry, but both firms will need each other to face off will competition in the infrastructure space, analysts said.

Under a memorandum of agreement signed yesterday, Metro Pacific and Ayala Corp. will each own a 50 percent stake in the railway projects and related real estate development undertakings.

The partnership will initially bid for the light rail transit projects identified under the government's PPP program. But both companies are open to working together on other rail-related opportunities, the two companies said in a statement.

The last time the two conglomerates worked together was in early 2010 when they teamed up to bid for the Angat water project.

"We are glad to be partnering with Metro Pacific Investments group for this specific purpose, We each have unique strengths and capabilities that, when combined, create a unique value proposition in rail development," Ayala chief executive officer Fernando Zobel de Ayala said.

"We hope to contribute meaningfully in helping raise the standards of our public utilities. This is vital to our nation's progress and competitiveness. Developing an efficient mass transit system is a huge endeavor which will be

JOSEA /B2

SSS earnings up 11.8% to ₱25.5B in '11

By Roneel W. Dorotan

THE SOCIAL Security System's (sss) earnings in 2011 jumped by 11.8 percent to P25.5 billion, from the P22.8 billion reported the previous year partly due to improved collection procedures.

Emilio de Quiros Jr., SSS president and chief executive, said in a statement that the increase could also be attributed to "prudent management of operation expenses and reduced investment income."

"Service delivery to members likewise improved, thanks to enhancements in information technology systems," de Quiros said. "Our moves toward more electronic and Internet-based transactions resulted in more efficiency and better service to our members."

He said that last year, the pension fund collected some P88 billion in contributions, rising by 8.4 percent from the P77 billion reported in 2010.

Also, SSS benefits payments in 2011 reached P76 billion, it was 6.8 percent higher than the P71 billion in benefits paid out in 2010.

Bulk of the payment had been earmarked for retirement and death benefit claims.

"Collections outpaced benefit payments by P5.2 billion, the highest recorded [surplus] since 2002," the SSS chief said.

"This is in keeping with our objective of continually building up the investment reserve fund and lengthening the actuarial life of the (SSS) Fund."

At the income front (investments), the SSS chalked up some P30 billion last year...an increase of 7.2 percent from the P28 billion worth in 2010.

De Quiros said part of that income came from the penalty (subvention program the SSS offered its employers members last year

BW/B1

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
April 24, 2012
42.690

STOCK MARKET
April 24, 2012
6.51

Share prices firm up

STOCKS yesterday firmed up on closing after a sluggish morning trade as investors re-assessed assets in cash and eager to embark on selective buying.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange closed 6.51 points, or 0.13 percent, higher at 5,168.65.

Holding firms, services, mining/oil and property stocks gained while the financial and industrial counters faltered.

Value turnover amounted to Ph 4B billion. Despite the slim index gain, there were 80 advancers against 84 decliners, while 41 stocks were unchanged.

Among index stocks, Phinma Mining was

KMU/B1

One wild card down

THE BOARD of Trust Managers Association of the Philippines met last week to review the secretariat's bid for a seat on the Philippine Stock Exchange, which will hold its annual stockholders' meeting and board of directors on May 8.

Industry sources said the decision was to field a lone candidate to board its chances and thus, Paul Joseph Garcia of Bank of the Philippine Islands decided to give way to rapidly retirement pair Marivic Ramiro of Banco de Oro Unibank.

Garcia's withdrawal further narrowed to two the "dark horses" to the 15 incumbent candidates, all of whom are running for reelection. Aside from Ramiro, the other "outsider" is Roland Arnaldo of the Investment House Association of the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the leading three were angry yesterday with talk about incumbent PSE director and businessman Francis Chua who was supposedly barred till a Cotton Pacific flight for his retirement retreat to join on his way left. Doris C. Dumlao

Biz Buzz
By the staff

Everyone wins, except...

HOW do you bind an attack on a project—whether formal or not—that relies on the outlook of the environmental movement? Why, give in, of course.

This is what the Philippine Reclamation Authority opted to do recently, to put an end to the controversy surrounding its development on Manila Bay that would supposedly lift off a hard sweetness to loved by backwards-reclamation environmentalists.

According to our sources, the PRA has now awarded a new plan that will "preserve and integrate" the bird sanctuary into the reclamation project, and even turn it into an eco-tourism site.

According to one official familiar with the plan, the bird sanctuary—locating the Paranaque and Las Pinas boundary—will serve, in fact, for keep as is and not disturbed, so as to limit criticism of the project.

At the same time, PRA has also committed to ensure that some of the surrounding areas will experience any flooding because of additional reclamation project. Our source said that the Paranaque and Las Pinas areas will be designed to increase its depth, while a sandbar will also be removed.

Looks like the new scheme is a winner for all stakeholders involved: the people of Paranaque and Las Pinas, the PRA, the birds and environmentalists. Everyone, of course, except this one politician business family that is hoping to cash in on the deal by taking a local cut in it. Charlie L. Lunar

Tetra Pak: Mum, run verb

SILENCE, take note: Tetra Pak is a mum word around.

Thus, when referring to products using the packages made by Sweden's Tetra Ink, the following may be used: Tetra Pak packages or Tetra Ink cartons or Tetra Ink cartons packages or Tetra Ink beverage cartons.

Get on other hand, it is not right to say the brand as a verb, as in the following sentences: Our milk is Tetra-Packed in sweet containers. Tetra Tetra packing Pacific opened last year. Millions of Tetra Paks are sold worldwide. I bread ready-to-drink milk is available in Tetra Paks.

These examples of correct and incorrect usage of the noun "Tetra Ink" were contained in the brand and trademark guide recently distributed by the world's leading food processing and packaging solutions company whose clients here include Alaska Milk Corp., RFM Corp., Magnolia Inc. and Nestle Philippines Inc.

Apparently, it is not mentioned for brand names like Tetra Pak to be used as a verb in the Philippines. Thank Inward. Theo Arcos-Ouanico

More for Gas

YOSARI Nusantara Undervenitary Hiroshi Imamoto, who heads up energy at Foundation, has openly thrown her support behind Gas Laguna—the oil up for reappointment to the Commission on Election. The commission will have its hands full yet again during the local and national elections slated next year.

In a note to his friends in media, Guevarra said that Wilson Monreal—an investor columnist and chair of the Movement for Good Governance—is set to present a letter to President Aquino congratulating him. The respective name of Laguna to Comelec Commissioner has become a sticking point for the Tuesd on Rizal.

On a personal note, Guevarra said that it takes time and patience of Buddha to organize votes for a consensus candi, such as the appointment of Laguna. It's difficult... and the committees wonders why she and others even do it.

But then again, she said, the future of the country is a cause that we stand all fight for.

Cliché or it is, she said, all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.

Time to Even. Now is doing something. Time Arcos-Bondoc

Stormy meeting expected

WHEN shareholders of Ambit on Development Bank meet this morning at the Grand Ballroom in Quezon City, expect some fireworks to show up.

Some business sirius they con-

UPCAT REVIEW
PASS UP, ATENEO, LA SALLE, UST & OTHER COLLEGES - THE SURE WAY!
review masters
Classroom + Online Review
+ Refresher Course
+Actual School UPCAT Questions
+Experience being taught by experts
ENROLL NOW! Call 0922-873-8439 • (02)985-5257
www.upcatreview.com

A VITAL PART OF YOUR SECURITY
intimus
ELITE
411-88 | 1-723-8888

HMR Auction Services, Inc.
Your One-Stop Asset Disposal Solution
MEGA AUCTION
Gensets, Transformers & Backhoe
Auction Day: April 28, 2012 (11am)
1275 KVA GENSET
1250 KVA GENSET

Recto Bank said to hold more gas, oil

By Amy R. Remo

FORUM Energy Plc, which is exploring for oil and gas within the controversial but highly prospective Recto Bank, yesterday confirmed that there was an "upgrowth" in the resources" estimate before it is examined in the area, off Reed Bank in the South China Sea (see "Ti).

Forum Energy, which holds a 75-percent stake in the SC 72 license, has declared its discovery in Hasbrouck, performing material to possess the Recto Bank in the board of directors later this week. The latter views from the interpretation of new 3D and 2D data acquired in the service contract area, it reported.

According to previous estimates, the Hasbrouck prospect alone was expected to hold roughly 3.4 billion cubic feet of gas and potentially 440 million barrels of oil—said to be bigger than the existing Malampaya gas field off Palawan.

In a phone interview, Energy Undersecretary Jose Al Layug Jr. said that he has yet to receive a copy of the report, but he is hoping that Recto Bank resources will be bigger than that of Malampaya, providing a boost to the country's energy prospects.

Meanwhile, the Malampaya field is expected to provide gas for three power facilities in Batangas until 2024. The facilities collectively generate 1.8 percent of Luzon's electricity requirements.

Previously, the SC 72 joint venture had said that it was pushing through with its planned well drillings in the Recto Bank this year despite the controversial claims made by Taiwan and China.

Manuel V. Pangilinan, chair of Philex Mining Corp., had said that the company has no plans of postponing the exploration activities on account of these renewed claims made earlier this week.

Philex Mining, through subsidiaries PEC Resources Inc and Philex Petroleum Corp., holds 66.45 percent of Forum Energy's issued capital.

PNOC chairman Jose Layug Jr. (left) and Forum Energy Plc chairman Philip Ross (right) witness the signing of a memorandum of agreement between Philex Petroleum Corp. president Manuel V. Pangilinan (second from left) and Forum Energy Plc chief executive officer Anthony Rubin (second from right) in Manila yesterday. PNOC and Forum Energy are partners in the Recto Bank project. PNOC holds a 25-percent stake in the project.

Ayala, Metro Pacific team up

To see page A4

FOTON
OFW
LCV
LOW DOWN
P 68k* P 75k* P 95,400* P 55k*
HOTLINE NOS.:
www.foton.com.ph

Share prices

from page B1

the biggest advance 1+4.95 percent).

Megaworld (+2.82 percent) and ALI (+2 percent) likewise contributed to the PSEi's gain.

Other index stocks that closed higher were PLDT, Semirara and BC.

Among the non-index stocks that gained on heavy volume were Hi-Eisu and Security Bank.

On the other hand, the PSEi's gains were tempered by the decline in Metrobank, SMIC, URC, MPI, EDC and AP.

Newly listed GT Capital and Petnet also declined.

The local stock market was initially down by 0.01 points in morning trade as investors took their cue from the weakness seen on Wall Street.

The Dow Jones Industrial index fell by 102.09 points due to renewed worries on Europe's ability to make progress on reforms after weekend political events in France and the Netherlands.

The US stocks index was also weighed down by Chinese manufacturing data, weaker earnings forecast from several major bellwether firms and a decline in shares of Wal-Mart due to a corruption allegations as to unit in Mexico. Doris C. Dumlao

SSS earnings up 11.8%

from page B1

he announced loss amortization of employees.

The program recorded in the collection of about P1.38 billion worth of delinquency payments.

"The SSS was able to achieve all these performance milestones without borrowing, kept operating expenses," de Quiroz said. "In fact, our 2011 opex totaled P7.5 billion, which was only 67 percent of our choice limit and the lowest incurred in the past 10 years."

The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd.

NOTICE OF THE 30th ANNUAL REGULAR MEMBERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 30th Annual Regular Members' Meeting of The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd. will be held on Wednesday, 02 May 2012, at 2:00 P.M. at the Insular Life Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. Proof of Notice of Meeting and Determination of Quorum
2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the 2011 Annual Regular Members' Meeting held on 03 May 2011
3. Annual Report of Officers
4. Approval/Ratification of the Acts and Resolutions of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees from the date of the last Annual Regular Members' Meeting up to the date of this meeting
5. Election of Board of Trustees
6. Appointment of the External Auditor and Fixing of its Remuneration; and
7. Other Matters

Persons qualified as Members who intend to nominate another person for election to Board of Trustees must do so in writing and submit the same to the Corporate Secretary at least 30 days before the meeting, i.e., on or before 02 April 2012, as provided in Section 26 of the By-Laws. Such nomination shall be certified to by at least 10 members of the Company not related to the nominee and to the nominator, and shall be accompanied by the written acceptance of the nominee.

Any Member who is unable to vote may be present or represented by proxy. A proxy must be executed in writing by the Member or his duly authorized attorney-in-fact. Proxies must be submitted to the Corporate Secretary at the Insular Life Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Philippines, or any of the Insular Life Regional Offices or Insular Life Sales Offices not later than 30 April 2012. Proxies submitted after the deadline may be accepted only at the discretion of the Corporate Secretary. A form of proxy may be downloaded from the Company's website at http://www.insularlife.com.ph. The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd. Online Proxy System (IPS) is also available at the Office of the Corporate Secretary or at any of the Insular Life Regional Offices or Insular Life Sales Offices. Members who will attend the meeting are requested to submit the proxy with attorney-in-fact form (Item II Part III of the IPS). The presence of a member in the Annual Meeting, whether in person or by proxy, shall revoke his proxy for such meeting.

In accordance with the Corporation's By-Laws, only Members of record at the close of business on 29 March 2012 shall be entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting.

For facilitation purposes, please bring any government-issued identification document (Passport, Driver's License, SSS/GSIS ID, etc.) when you attend the meeting.

Signed this 10th day of April 2012 at Alabang, Philippines.

By Order of the Board of Trustees:

MA. JENNIFER M. ARIMAN
Corporate Secretary

PROXY

I/We, the undersigned stockholder(s) and member(s) of The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd., do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint

☐ _____ (Please indicate full name, do not abbreviate) and/or

☐ Board Chairperson Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Corporate Secretary Ma. Jennifer M. Ariman, Treasurer Ma. Angelica Lourdes Ayala-Gutierrez, Assistant Corporate Secretary Ma. Cristina Ayala-Gutierrez, Trustee Antonio Jose U. Periquet, Jr., Trustee Ma. Antonia Ayala-Gutierrez, Trustee Ma. Victoria Ayala-Gutierrez, Trustee Ma. Socorro Ayala-Gutierrez, Trustee Ma. Fatima Ayala-Gutierrez, Trustee Ma. Paz Ayala-Gutierrez, Trustee Ma. Teresa Ayala-Gutierrez, Trustee Ma. Rosario

SM Prime net ₱2.43B in Q1

Revenues from new, current malls boost bottom line

By Doris C. Dumlao

SM Prime Holdings, the country's largest shopping mall developer, grew its first quarter net profit by 15 percent to ₱2.43 billion from a year ago as revenues from new and existing malls expanded.

Consolidated revenues grew by 16 percent to ₱7.03 billion year-on-year and the increase was all driven in a mix of factors, including additional capacity from new malls opened in the Philippines during the past two years, a same-store sales growth of 6 percent and the strong investments in 63 China operations.

"SM Prime's better-than-expected performance during the first three months is a welcome development. It confirms our optimism in the Philippine economy and SM's ability to thrive in competitive environments in China. This bodes well with our plans this year to open five new malls in the Philippines and one in China. With these new malls, SM Prime grossly enhances its reputation (SM) to serve the varied needs of its clients and to maintain its dominant position in the industry," SM Prime president Hans Sy said in a statement.

During the stockholders' meeting on Tuesday, Sy also announced the opening this year of the group's fifth mall in southwest China in Chongqing, one of the largest cities in China with a population of 32 million.

The new mall will add 147,600 square meters to the group's shopping mall portfolio in China.

The first quarter results include the operations of the four SM malls in China, located in the cities of Xiamen and Jinjiang in southern China, Chengdu in central China, and Wuhan in Eastern China.

The four SM malls in China reported a 29 percent rise in gross revenues to ₱626 million, and a growth in net income of 99 percent to ₱146 million.

Earlier this year, SM Prime management SM City Olongapo, its first mall in the province of Zambales, for the rest of 2012. SM Prime is scheduled to open SM City Lanang in Davao City, SM City General Santos in Southern Mindanao, SM City Consolacion in Cebu, SM City San Jose Del Monte in Bulacan and SM Chongqing in China.

By the end of this year, SM Prime will have 46 malls in the Philippines and five in China with an estimated combined gross floor area of 6.3 million sqm.

Consunji pays ₱1.58B for Atlas stake

THE CONSUNJI group has paid ₱1.58 billion for its 1.3 percent stake in Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp.

The purchase of the equity stake was completed on March 29 with a block sale consisting of 95.09 million shares at ₱16.60 each, based on data from the Philippine Stock Exchange.

A spokesperson from the Consunji group confirmed to Inquirer that this was the block bought by the group through privately held DMC Holdings Inc.

The block acquired by the Consunji group is now worth about ₱1.82 billion as the mining firm's share price has risen by 15.5 percent since the group's entry.

Atlas' share price closed at ₱19.04 per share at the listed stock market yesterday, giving it a market capitalization of ₱14.5 billion.

The entry makes the Consunji group—which is into mining, power generation, construction and infrastructure development—a strategic partner of the Razon and Ty families in Atlas.

Atlas is seen to benefit from the Consunji group's technical expertise in mining given its ownership of coal mining ventures via Semirara Mining Corp.

"The Consunji group, with its pool of engineers, can add value to Atlas in the form of construction and earth-moving expertise," said Joseph Tiston, president of Eagle Equities Inc.

"It's the kind of expertise that can be bought by Atlas even without bringing them into the board. But if there's someone with that experience willing to invest, then it's good," he added.

For its part, Atlas' subsidiary, Carmen Copper Corp. (CCC)—the country's largest exporter of copper concentrate that operates the Toledo mine in Cebu province—ended 21 percent more copper in the first quarter of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011.

CCC plans to boost its output to around 60,000 tons per day by 2013 from the present production capacity of 40,000 tons per day.

Doris C. Dumlao

The secret to getting what you want

MONEY MATTERS

Efren L. Cruz

QUESTION: It usually takes me a while to decide what computer, cell phone, car or furniture to buy because of the myriad of choices available. And because there is always a new model coming out, I sometimes don't know if I've made the right buying decision. Is there a right system for buying these things?—Confused Consumer

Answer: Have you ever tried parking in a mall car park on a Sunday afternoon? If so, you would have waited a long while for an open slot. And when a slot does open up, you would have seen your companion zooming in, word it to entice your claim. Those are the normal thoughts, even if the slot is not the nearest to the mall entrance.

But have you also experienced parking in a mall car park on an early Sunday morning? Wow, you would have seen slots galore. In fact, it would have taken you some time to pick the "right" spot because there are so many options to choose from. Would it be the one nearest the entrance or the one with the most space around it so that the door of the car beside yours won't hit your car? You might have even taken some time deciding whether to park in reverse or not.

Options have this effect on us. The more choices there are, the longer it takes to make a final decision. Worse, having many choices may lead to analysis paralysis.

In situations wherein you have three versus 10 options, you can also end up being less happy after making a decision in the situation with 10 options. Why? Because in the back of your mind, there could have been nine other ways that things could have turned out for you versus two others in the situation with just three options.

The secret to getting what you want like in getting what you need—and if you get what you need, you will narrow down your choices and have fewer temptations to look back.

Let's take the case of buying a computer because I am in need of one now. If I were to look at all that is available in the market, then I would be submerged in choices. Even if I were to limit my choices to portable computers, the choices would still be staggering.

So I go with the one with processor speeds of over 3 GHz? What about screen size? While a 10-inch screen is more portable, a 15-inch one is easier to read. So I go either one that has at least 500 gigabytes of hard disk storage or should I content myself with one that has much less.

Should I go for the tablet type so that it becomes ultra-portable but is more difficult to use for heavy computing or should I go for one that can do the heavy computing but also heavier to carry? Or maybe I should go for the hybrid which can transform into a regular laptop from a tablet by means of a keyboard that can be detached.

I haven't even begun talking about battery life, dedicated video cards for gaming, great sounding audio and operating systems that may or may not support an apps store. And since the portable PC is the product of the past personal technology, the Forever one, I choose today may well be the turtle just a few months down the road.

If you are like me who uses the laptop for non-so-heavy computing, running presentations, reading e-books and playing light novel on weekends, perhaps the best choice is one with a medium processor speed that will allow for longer battery life, less than 300 gigabytes of hard-disk space, and a 12- to 13.4-inch screen. Such a laptop would also be more affordable and necessarily within budget. There is no need for the frills such as a dedicated video card, great sounding audio and access to an app store.

For specific parameters, I could just share the mail PC sales man my laundry list of specs and he will easily come up with a narrowed down list of choices. More importantly, I would be happy with top choice and be less temptation to consider other more pricey models. I would have been ill had I chosen a different laptop model.

People are faced every day with a myriad of choices, from kids enjoying a toy store after being given ₱500 to shop to choose their birthday gift to adults deciding on their next movie after reliving it on range from a choice of which magazine to see, which career to follow, to which person to marry.

The study of choices as they relate to money falls under behavioral finance, an interesting and sometimes controversial topic. If you want to know a bit more about behavioral finance as well as of favorite personal rush, debt, risk and wealth management, attend the PAFLP's seminar scheduled on May 16, 2012. Visit www.personalfinance.ph, e-mail info@personalfinance.ph or call (632) 236-1541 for more details.

Efren L. Cruz is a registered financial planner of RFP Philippines, a personal financial growth, investment counseling advisor and best-selling author. Questions about the article may be sent by SMS to (0917-565-0728) or e-mailed to efren@personalfinance.ph. To learn more about the RFP program, visit www.rfp.ph or e-mail info@rfp.ph.)

Puregold Q1 profit up 24.5%

BUSINESS PURSUITS: Price Club grew its first quarter net profit by 24.5 percent to ₱409 million year-on-year as robust domestic consumer spending and new store openings sustained a double-digit growth in sales.

In a regulatory filing, Puregold reported that its net sales for the three-month period had gone up by 20.1 percent year-on-year to ₱10.73 billion, largely due to the increase in turnover following the opening of new stores last year.

Cost of sales increased to ₱8.99 billion, up 20.1 percent year-on-year, due to the opening of new stores. This was partially offset by increase in conditional discounts from the company's suppliers.

Puregold's gross profit increased by 20.9 percent to ₱1.74 billion from a year ago.

The company, which is led by the family of Filipino-Chinese businessman Lucio Co, had a total of 101 stores in operation, including 62 hypermarkets, 28 supermarkets and 11 discounters as of end-March.

The retailer's capital spending for this year is budgeted at ₱3 billion. Continuing suppliers' support arising from scale of operations is seen to contribute to the sustainability of margins.

Puregold aims to maintain gross and net profit margins at a minimum of 14 percent and 4 percent, respectively this year.

With its forthcoming acquisition of the S&R membership shopping business for ₱16.5 billion, Puregold also hopes to penetrate the upscale retail market. Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF FORCE MAJEURE CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE YEAR 2016 SEEKING APPROVAL TO RECOVER IN THE DISTRIBUTION RATES DUE TO STORM DAMAGES AND AUTHORITY TO DEFER CLAIMS UNDER THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR FINANCIAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE No. 2016-XXX MC

MISAMIS ORIENTAL I RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (MORESCO I),
Applicant

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on February 01, 2016, the Misamis Oriental I Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MORESCO I) filed an application for the approval of its force majeure capital projects for the year 2016 arising from the damages to its distribution assets due to typhoon "Seniang" with authority to recover from them the National Electrification Administration (NEA) duly approved a proposed quarterly rate adjustment.

In the said application MORESCO I alleged, among others, the following:

1. It is an electric cooperative duly organized and existing by virtue of laws of the Republic of the Philippines, for franchising area includes the city, municipalities and a city in the Province of Misamis Oriental, namely: Balingoan, Gingoog, Kinoguitan, Lagonglong, Magsaysay, Manticao, Medina, Naawan, Opol, Salay, Tagoloan and Villanueva, and the municipality and city in the Province of Misamis Occidental, namely: Aloran, Baliangao, Calamba, Clarin, Oroquieta, Panaon, Plaridel, Sapang Dalaga and Tudela, with principal office address at Misamis Oriental-Misamis Occidental Road, Barangay Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, where it may be served with notices and processes issued in this case;
2. Typhoon "Seniang" (international name: Nock-Ten) which entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on December 17, 2016 and exited the PAR on December 27, 2016, packing maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph, hit the Province of Misamis Oriental, Province of Misamis Occidental, Province of Bukidnon, Province of Lanao del Norte, Province of Camiguin, Province of Agusan del Norte, Province of Agusan del Sur, Province of Surigao del Norte, Province of Surigao del Sur, Province of Dinagat Islands, Province of Davao Oriental, Province of Davao de Oro, Province of Davao del Norte, Province of Davao del Sur, Province of Davao Occidental, Province of Cotabato, Province of Sultan Kudarat, Province of Sarangani, Province of South Cotabato, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, Province of Zamboanga del Sur, Province of Zamboanga Sibugay, Province of Basilan, Province of Tawi-Tawi, Province of Sulu, Province of Palawan, Province of Aklan, Province of Antique, Province of Capiz, Province of Iloilo, Province of Guimaras, Province of Negros Occidental, Province of Negros Oriental, Province of Siquijor, Province of Cebu, Province of Bohol, Province of Leyte, Province of Southern Leyte, Province of Biliran, Province of Eastern Samar, Province of Northern Samar, Province of Western Samar, Province of Catanduanes, Province of Albay, Province of Camarines Sur, Province of Camarines Norte, Province of Sorsogon, Province of Masbate, Province of Romblon, Province of Mindoro Occidental, Province of Mindoro Oriental, Province of Marinduque, Province of Batangas, Province of Cavite, Province of Laguna, Province of Rizal, Province of Quezon, Province of Bulacan, Province of Pampanga, Province of Tarlac, Province of Zambales, Province of Pangasinan, Province of La Union, Province of Ilocos Sur, Province of Ilocos Norte, Province of Abra, Province of Apayao, Province of Kalinga, Province of Mountain Province, Province of Ifugao, Province of Benguet, Province of Nueva Vizcaya, Province of Quirino, Province of Aurora, Province of Nueva Ecija, Province of Bata

The #1 HMO in the country*

Celebrates its best.

The country's top health maintenance organization (HMO) held a night of celebration and recognition for their best agents and brokers. TOAST, Maxicare's Annual Intermediary Sales Awards was held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel on March 30, 2012.

Conceived back in 2008 as a way to give much deserved recognition to their top performers, the Intermediary Awards has become an annual event brokers and agents look forward to. Without all their hard work, Maxicare wouldn't be the undisputed leader in the HMO industry.

This year's event was also a historic night for Maxicare since TOAST became the official recognition for the annual intermediary awards, making the yearly night of celebration more prestigious. The TOAST award is a symbol for hardwork and success brokers and agents can strive for. Furthermore, this is the first year that Maxicare awarded the Top 3 Agency Unit Heads, as recognition for their contribution to Maxicare's growth.

TOAST ceremony was started by Vice President for Sales and Marketing, Anni C. Maliulan. Her inspiring words set the mood for the evening. She offered her admiration to all intermediary partners, together with Maxicare team members, who worked hard in making Maxicare the best in the HMO industry. Some of Maxicare's deserving intermediary partners were awarded with local and foreign travel packages as part of Maxicare's 2011 incentive programs. Others were lucky to have won exciting raffle prizes handed out all through the night.

Cheers and Congratulations to Maxicare TOAST Awardees for 2011!

Top 10 Agents
1. Edwin Cosetoo
2. Sarah Belle Serrano
3. Vanya Diaz
4. Mark Anthony Gostardo
5. Elizabeth Perrig
6. Joni Antiqo
7. Michael Sabilona
8. Erminda Colcitos
9. Rovern Corachea
10. Geraldine Sta. Ana

Top 3 Agency Unit Heads
1. Christopher Logbosan
2. Jeremy Wiyanco
3. Lourdes Gotang

Top 10 Brokers
1. Solutions Insurance Brokers Inc.
2. AON Hewitt
3. Avelar Insurance Brokerage Corporation
4. BDO Insurance Brokers Inc.
5. Marsh Philippines Inc.
6. Jardine Lloyd Thompson Insurance Brokers Inc.
7. Univar Insurance Brokers Inc.
8. New Canaan Insurance Agency Inc.
9. I-Solve Employee Benefits Consultants
10. Howden Insurance & Reinsurance Brokers Inc.

Special Awardees
1. Yanas Diaz - 2011 Highest New Business, Agents Category
2. AON Hewitt- 2011 Highest New Business, Brokers Category
3. Solutions Insurance Brokers Inc. - 2011 Highest Persistency, Brokers Category

By the end of the night, Maxicare's President and CEO, Jose Pastor Z. Punzalan expressed his appreciation to the intermediary partners. "2011 was a great year for Maxicare because of the unsurpassed growth of the intermediary business. The increase in the number of agents and brokers also helped the company exceed its business targets last year. TOAST ended on a high note, thanks to Antonio L. Go, Equicom Group Chairman. He thanked all in attendance for their help in making Maxicare reach a silver jubilee – 25 years of operation. With that, he also shared the vision of even more growth to provide unmatched service and healthcare to everyone. It was a rallying cry for all the agents, brokers, and partners to continue giving their best.

With currently more than 700,000 members and a continued alliance with more than 1,000 hospitals and clinics, Maxicare is undoubtedly the HMO with the widest medical network. 2011 marks many successful milestones for Maxicare and another productive year is waiting for Maxicare and its intermediary partners this 2012. The vision of reaching out to more Filipinos with more innovative products and rapid regional expansion are further realized each day, thanks to our agents and brokers, who push themselves beyond their limits to be the best of the best.

*Business World's Top 1000 Corporations for 2010

Maxicare
Healthcare at its finest
www.maxicare.com.ph

BUSINESS

Hotline blast: Text INQ BUSINESS to 2467 | Website: www.inquirer.net/business | E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph | Send us your feedback: inquirer.net/specialpages/message-to-ABC

Meralco boosts capex budget for 2012

Utility to spend ₱11.9 billion to improve services

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA Electric Co., the country's biggest power distributor, has hoisted up its capital spending to P11.9 billion in 2012 from only P6 billion last year, to further improve its power distribution service and lower systems losses.

In a filing, Meralco said the approved capital expenditure budget was geared to "support projects in areas with large concentration of core customers, give priority to correction of normal deficiencies in the system, reach the loading limits of Meralco facilities and initiate practical and cost-effective projects."

About 75 percent or ₱8.9 billion of the planned P11.9 billion spending for the year will be used to fund electric capital projects related to the power distribution business while the rest will be used for non-electric capital projects.

Funding of capital expenditures will be sourced substantially from internally generated cash flow and borrowings from local and foreign financial institutions, Meralco added.

"Meralco is required by the Energy Regulatory Commission to take necessary steps, including making necessary capital expenditures, to build and maintain its network so as to meet minimum performance and service requirements," the company explained.

Oscar S. Reyes, senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of Meralco, earlier said that the bulk of the budget will be used for the construction and upgrade of substation facilities, power transformers and distribution lines and feeders.

This move, Reyes said, would ensure that Meralco would continue to have a strong distribution system despite the expected increase in the power load over the next few years.

Meralco also earlier disclosed that a portion of this year's capex budget was to be earmarked for the P233-million implementation by the Philippine Electricity Management System project (PEMS), which will enable the utility to lay down the necessary technology and infrastructure and allow for the seamless implementation of the prepaid retail electricity scheme.

The approval to proceed with the project, however, remained pending with the ERC.

'Illegal' mining in Zambales depriving PH of taxes

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NATIONAL government, which is presently seeking a higher share from mining revenues, has lost millions from chromite ore/pellets being hauled off by illegal small-scale miners from a mineral reservation in Zambales, stakeholders said.

Consolidated Mines Inc. (CMI) president Benito Ilustre said in an interview that 80,000 metric tons of chromite ore, valued at P211 million, have been taken by illegal small-scale miners between mid-November 2011 and this month. The miners, allegedly operating with illegal permits from the Zambales provincial government, have so far shipped an estimated 49,000 tons to China at below the right market value, Ilustre said.

"The national government has lost about P18 million in tax revenues, as far, because of the illegal loading and shipping," Ilustre said. "If not, the applied owners of the chromite ore, had been the one to export the ore, we would have paid the national government P63 million in excise taxes and royalty fees since we are operating in a mineral reservation."

Ilustre earlier accused Zambales Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. of abusing his authority to issue small-scale mining permits on CMI's mining area in the Sitio Coto mineral reservation. Supposedly, only the national government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, can allow mining activities in mineral reservations.

"The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has affirmed that CMI is rightfully operating and that only the MGB should be able to issue permits on operations within the mineral reservation," Ilustre said. The mining executive said CMI is considering its options but would prefer that the national government resolve this controversy with the local government.

CMI has written letters to Environment Sec. Ramon J.P. Paje and to the Presidential Action Office. So far, the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau had issued cease and desist orders (CDOs) to several of the small-scale miners, such as Camilo Ence, Reynaldo Dan, Dennis Oron, Elmo Melgar, Aiser Ilchez and Arl Hugo. However, the orders were served for noncompliance with Presidential Decree No. 1586 or the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System Law.

Copies of the orders had Lormelyn Gendio, the EMB director to General Luna, telling the small-scale miners, "You are further directed to cease and desist from conducting further mining activities in the area until such time that an environmental compliance certificate is secured from this office."

Gendio said in a phone interview that the EMB has coordinated with the police and the military to implement the CDOs. "Last week an implement it but it seems the small-scale miners' activities have resumed since. We will need to coordinate again on our next course of action," Gendio said.

On April 20, the Bayanan Central Luzon Bureau reported that the Bureau of Customs (BOC) would not issue clearances to at least six small-scale miners, who were given permits by Ebdane and who were allegedly engaged in the theft of mineral ore in the province.

Customs Commissioner Ruffino Ruffon Biazon had said his agency has a copy of the CDOs issued to small-scale miners by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Biazon said BOC did not issue customs clearances to the vessels which small-scale miners used to ship the mineral ore to China, but apparently the Philippine Ports Authority allowed them to sail, said.

The mining problems in the province should be investigated to determine who has the final authority in allowing small-scale miners to ship ore to China, Biazon said.

Biazon had also said the issues had to be resolved soon because the government is losing tax revenues because of the activity.

"The stockpile belongs to CMI and it is being taken with permission and assistance of the provincial government. There is a corresponding penalty for shipping ore (these miners) are without customs clearance," Biazon said.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 920-2258 to 60 loc. 2201/2202
Telefax: 925-1514 / 925-8491 / 924-5345
Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph / E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Consultancy Services for the Implementation of Watershed Management Project

The Japanese Government through its Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has decided to assist the Government of the Philippines in the implementation of the Project for Capacity Development for Watershed Management in Region IV-A (CY 2012 to CY 2016) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the consultancy services for the implementation of Watershed Management Project.

Purpose

The project aims to improve forestland management through collaborative participatory watershed management and sustainability. It seeks to strengthen strategies for the effective implementation of watershed management plans in the Region IV-A (CALABARZON) and Mimaropa, to develop the forestland management through implementing community-based forest management (CBFM) activities, to improve the livelihood of people living in the forestland areas, and to promote conservation of natural forests and biodiversity in forestland areas (Protected Areas) and surrounding areas.

Scope of Work

The Project Implementation Management Consultants (PIMCs) will be responsible for the delivery of all the consultancy services for the implementation and management of the Project, primarily through the project's Implementing Agencies. In Kalayaan, Palawan and Province of Occidental Mindoro, the PIMCs will be responsible for the implementation of the Project. Specifically, the PIMCs will be responsible for the following activities:

- Phase 1 – Preparatory Phase (to fully mobilize, design, complete and operationalize Project Management Facilities, Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Systems, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System, Procurement Activities, Financial Management, Capacity Development Activities, and Conduct of Orientation)
- Phase 2 – Implementation Phase (including monitoring and evaluation)
- Phase 3 – Project Completion Phase (including preparation of Watershed Management Plans, Completion Report, and Preparation of Watershed Management Plans)
- Phase 4 – Post-Project Evaluation

The objective is to conduct consultancy services for the implementation of the Project.

The Project Implementation Management Consultants (PIMCs) will be composed of a Team Leader/Watershed Management Specialist (TL/WMS), Forestland Management Specialist (FMS), Environmental Specialist (ES), Community Development Specialist (CDS), Information Technology Specialist (ITS), Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (M&ES), Procurement Specialist (PS), Financial Management Specialist (FMS), Gender and Development Specialist (GDS), Regional Management Specialist (RMS). A total of approximately 124 man-months of services are required for the consultancy services. The PIMCs will be engaged for the entire implementation period of the Project. The PIMCs will be responsible for the delivery of all the consultancy services under the Project, primarily through the Project's Implementing Agencies.

The consultancy will be managed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) with the Project Management Office (PMO).

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Forest Management Bureau (FMB), Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB), Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Land Management Bureau (LMB), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Regional Offices, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices, Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices, Protected Area Management Offices, Protected Area Management Boards, Protected Area Management Enterprise Development Offices, Protected Area Superintendents, Regional Executive Directors, Provincial Governors, Municipal Mayors, Barangay Captains, Peoples Organizations, Non-Government Organizations, Private Sector Organizations, Academe, Local Government Units, Regional Development Council, Regional Development Committee, Provincial Development Council, Provincial Development Committee, Municipal Development Council, Municipal Development Committee, Barangay Development Council, Barangay Development Committee, Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives, Indigenous Peoples Organizations, Indigenous Peoples Communities, Indigenous Peoples Leaders, Indigenous Peoples Elders, Indigenous Peoples Women, Indigenous Peoples Youth, Indigenous Peoples Children, Indigenous Peoples Persons with Disabilities, Indigenous Peoples Senior Citizens, Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Domains, Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Lands, Indigenous Peoples Customary Laws, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Practices, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Knowledge, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Resources, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Rights, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Institutions, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Governance, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Leaders, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Elders, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Women, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Youth, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Children, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Persons with Disabilities, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Senior Citizens, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Ancestral Domains, Indigenous Peoples Traditional Ancestral Lands, Indigenous Peoples Traditional

boi BOARD OF INVESTMENTS dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that ANNA PAULA SHIPPING CORPORATION with office address at Lot 1013-A Real Road, Brgy. Cuenca, Tagaytay Road, Dasmariñas, Cavite, Philippines, is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New Domestic-Market Shipping Operator for the importation of its (01) unit Landing Craft Transport (LCT) vessel, a Filipino-flagged vessel.

Any person with valid objection(s) on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) EVARISTO R. CHUATAN
Director
Investments & Services
Industries Department

boi BOARD OF INVESTMENTS dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that FUTENGO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New Producer of Wheat Chips and Wood Pellets under the following annual production capacities on a Pioneer status, with preferential incentives as per BOI Governing Board Resolution No. 1-2012:

Wheat Chips	10,000 metric tons (MT)
Wood Pellets	42,000 metric tons

Any person with valid objection(s) on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) HERSTON P. ANTONIANO, JR.
Director
Processed Food Industries Department

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that ROXANNE M. QUEVARRA whose picture appears above is no longer connected with PORTFUND LIFE INSURANCE CO., INC. since 03/19/2012.

Any transactions entered into by Ms. Quevarra for and in behalf of the company after such date shall not be honored.

PORTFUND LIFE INSURANCE CO., INC.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD NEEDS

UPKEEP/MAINT

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BONDS/TRUSTEE

STA MESA CONDO

THREE OF REQUIRING 1 FOR SALE!

MUST SEE !!!

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSES

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

LAND & WAREHOUSE

WAREHOUSE/FACTORY

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOANS

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

WANTED TO BUY

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
2/F DOLE Building, 851 Sebastian St., Intramuros, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National Employee/s	Position
INTELIGENT SCREEN MACHINERIES INC. 2/F Unit 2 Hoyo Building, Brgy. Bel-Air, Makati, Metro Manila	Charlie Lee Ledesma Bohol	Sales Director Experts (ISE)
NEW PACIFIC MECHANICAL SUPPORT SERVICE INC. 4th Avenue, Brgy. 28 Bagumbayan, City, Quezon City	Yoon Chee Park Korean	Director
PANAPIC TECHNOLOGY INC. Unit 804, 8th Floor Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower, 2210 Chino Roces Avenue, Extension, Makati City	Kyeongjoo Choi (aka Kelly) Korean	Junior Supervisor
T-ARA STAR-LITTLE NPO, CORP. 69 Dolores Subdivision, Brgy. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal	Kaehong Lo Chinese	Operations Manager
RAPTOR LOGISTICS PHILIPPINES (HK) Warehouse #1 Jimmy's Inn, Brgy. Old Nichols, Clark	Chengde Jiang Korean	Deputy General Manager
SEVENSEA CORP. 2/F Rm 201 Victoria Building, 669 United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila City	Yoon Ho Ming Vietnamese	Affiliate Manager (Old Sweden)
PHILLIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION (HK) 23/F Manila Town Ctr. 20th St. Mckinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	Hongwei Ni Sweden	Assistant Vice President Distribution Strategy and Business Development
MEGA DYNASTIES INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LIMITED 2/F Hutchinson Tower, 1608 Taguig, 3416 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Shangwei Yang Chinese	Marketing Supervisor / Customer Support Officer
ACCENT ORE INC. 1/F Ayala Triangle Gardens, Makati City	Jaysmay Mouth Indian	Senior Specialist
GLOBAT INTERNATIONAL CORP. Rm 618 Filipinas Life Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wanjun Chinese	Operations Manager
MEGA DYNASTIES INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LIMITED 2/F Hutchinson Tower, 1608 Taguig, 3416 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Shangwei Yang Chinese	Marketing Supervisor / Customer Support Officer
SOLUMINA INC. TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 14/F Ayala Court 1 Bldg., 6754 Ayala Ave. cor. Makati City	Qingjun Hu Chinese	Logistics Manager / Representative
INTERACTIVE BUSINESS NETWORK ALLIANCE, INC. 11/F Yuchengco Center Tower 1, 6750 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City	Lee Hung Yee Malaysian	Operations Officer
ORIENTAL HOTEL PHILIPPINES INC. 5/F Bulos Pacific Tower, 6784 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Aaron Bin Mohamad Malaysian	Assistant Financial Controller
SOLUMINA INC. TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 14/F Ayala Court 1 Bldg., 6754 Ayala Ave. cor. Makati City	Wenjun Wu Chinese	Marketing Staff
TRINA SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES INC. 14/F Ayala Court 1 Bldg., 6754 Ayala Ave. cor. Makati City	Hongbin Ni Chinese	Finance Staff
HUAWEI GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 4/F Princeton Bldg., 101 Dela Rosa St. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Jiawen Sun Chinese	Country Leader / Quality Assurance & Customer Satisfaction
SKY SUNNY SOLUTIONS CORPORATION 4/F Princeton Bldg., 101 Dela Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Kyoichi Misawa Japanese	Assistant Project Manager
SKY SUNNY SOLUTIONS CORPORATION 4/F Princeton Bldg., 101 Dela Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Nobuyuki Kato Japanese	Assistant Project Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ALAN S. SANANDRES, CESO III
Regional Director

ANNOUNCEMENT

All employees who are under TWENTY (20) working days/days are advised to participate in the 2012 Labor Day Job Fair scheduled for 01 to 04/5 on 01 May 2012 at the Manila World Trade Center, Roxas Blvd.

For confirmation of attendance and further inquiries, kindly call Ms. Jocelyn Ramos at 0917-8196-777 or Ms. Ma. Cecilia Reyes (0920-9566830) or you may contact them at the following telephone numbers: (02) 551-3000 loc. 3000/3001 and submit confirmation through electronic mail.

WANTED TO BUY

BUY - SELL - TRADE ROLEX LOUIS VUITTON

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

CALL POEA 24-HOUR HOTLINES

need a job?

JobMarket SMS

Text JOIN JM <category> <name>/<gender M/F> and send it to 4467

Categories	
ARTS	NONE
BPO	HOUSEHOLD
BUILDING	HOSPITALITY
COMPUTER	HOTEL
ENTERTAINMENT	HR
EVENTS	Manufacturing
ENGINEERING	PEZA
ENVIRONMENTAL	SERVICE
FINANCE	SERVICE
INDUSTRIAL	SHIP
LEGAL	WORK

JOBMARKET

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces the opening for application or recommendation of the position of Regular Members of the Legal Education Board representing the (1) Philippine Association of Law Schools; (2) Philippine Association of Law Professors; and, (3) Law Students' Sector.

With the exception of the representative of the law students' sector, the Regular Members of the Board must be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and members of the Philippine Bar who have been engaged for at least ten (10) years in the practice of law, as well as in the teaching of law in a duly authorized or recognized law school (Sec. 4, R.A. No. 7662).

Applications or recommendations, together with six copies of accomplished Personal Data Sheet (forms are downloadable from the JBC Website http://jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph), must be submitted on or before 23 May 2012 to the JBC Secretariat, 3rd Flr. Gotesbel Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel Nos. 552-9511; Fax No. 552-9598; e-mail address jbc@supremecourt@gmail.com).

Non-applicants or recommendees must submit the following documents on or before 11 June 2012 (Monday):

Clearances from the NBI, Ombudsman, SC, PDEA (for those cases of dismissal, Office of the Bar Confidant) and Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP)	Income Tax Return for the past two (2) years	Certification as to the number of cases in the backlog of the Affidavit of Service and sworn medical certificate with declaration on such results, both conducted/issued within 3 months prior to the filing of application
Transcript of Records/Records of Conferment of Degree for the Bar/Certificate of Completion of the Bar exam	Certificate of Compliance with MCLE	
	Sworn Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Networth for the past two (2) years	
	Photocopy of Philippine Passport and Philippine Citizenship	

Previous applicants who are applying for the above-mentioned vacancies must inquire from the Secretariat about their ranking to cut off date application requirements and must submit them not later than the above-mentioned deadline for submission of documentary requirements.

Likewise, the JBC makes it known to the public that the following are applicants for judicial positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC/MTC) Dagupan City, Pangasinan (2nd, 4th Judicial Env. Pangasinan (2nd, 4th Judicial Region); Dagupan City, Pangasinan (2nd, 4th Judicial Env. Pangasinan (2nd, 4th Judicial Region); Urdaneta City, Pangasinan (2nd, 4th Judicial Env. Pangasinan (2nd, 4th Judicial Region); Urdaneta City, Pangasinan (2nd, 4th Judicial Env. Pangasinan (2nd, 4th Judicial Region); Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya

BUSINESS

ZenithOptimedia Group Launches New Global Positioning

The world's fastest growing media agency network unveils global rebrand to reflect new positioning

Steve Ring

Nina Mendiz

ZenithOptimedia Group, one of the world's leading global media agency networks, today launched a new global strategic positioning. Live.ROI.

Announced on the ROI Conference in London, the rebrand is the latest in a series of moves to improve the effectiveness of marketing spends. Digital and online media have dramatically increased the ways consumers interact and engage with brands and opened up thousands of new opportunities for the owners of those brands. In this increasingly complex and fragmented media landscape, measuring performance is a minimum requirement as more important than ever before. Live.ROI delivers the same rigorous approach, but in real-time, and connects ZenithOptimedia's core interest in delivering state-of-the-art data analytics and breakthrough creativity to deliver innovative ROI solutions for its clients.

"We were the first media agency to put accountability at the core of everything we do, and our pioneering expertise in this area has driven the successful and sustained success of our clients' businesses," said Steve King, Global Chief Executive Officer for ZenithOptimedia Group. "As continues, "Consumers increasingly live their lives in a digital world, which has driven a fragmentation no longer deliver everything our clients need. Live.ROI does. It takes ROI into new research and services a real time approach that identifies how and where budgets can be invested for the best returns. Over the past ten years we have built Live.ROI through the most demanding tests and it is the most comprehensive tool to help us give our clients the best advice."

The new positioning will be supported with cutting edge, world class software, processes and development programmes, including Improvement, CEO Signals, Touchpoints, Reflexive.com, Open and Live Academy. Zenith points ROI tracker to the world's largest research database of television consumer behavior, and Optimedia's latest and optimized investments and has a proven track record in delivering the highest possible return on clients' media investment. Touchpoints is a real time, state-of-the-art proprietary software application that tracks the performance of brand pages in Facebook via live dashboards, showing trends in metrics such as number of fans, likes, comments, engagement rate, etc. for each brand page, as well as competitive comparisons across multiple brand pages.

Announced ROI is the world's first online database of financial and sales global advertising spend using ZenithOptimedia's renowned and independent global advertising expenditure forecasts. Open is ZenithOptimedia's open source approach and philosophy to idea generation. Live Academy is a robust, relevant and tailored learning framework that will deliver over 20,000 hours of training across multiple disciplines for client, search and society to enable all employees to deliver their role proposition.

The new strategic positioning has been translated into a corporate identity rebrand that recently rolled out across all 200 offices worldwide, encompassing all ZenithOptimedia Group companies. For more details on the new branding for ZenithOptimedia and to see the full ZenithOptimedia Agency, the signature colour blue and a refreshed visible symbol.

Nina Mendiz, CEO for ZenithOptimedia Philippines comments: "As part of the repositioning we have taken this opportunity to reinvigorate our corporate brand both internally and externally. As the fastest growing and most dynamic media agency network, this new identity heralds our next stage of growth and demonstrates our commitment to our clients and staff that we will continue to be at the forefront of communications planning and buying."

Zest Airways eyes Middle East flights

By Paolo G. Montecillo

ZEST AIRWAYS, the airline of Jaime Ardik magnate Alfred Yao, has keyed plans to fly to the Middle East, which is home to millions of overseas Filipino workers.

Documents from the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) showed that the company applied for the authority to operate regular flights to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Currently, there are no local airlines flying from the Philippines to the Middle East, although flag carrier Philippine Airlines sells tickets to this Gulf, among others, thanks to code-sharing agreements.

Yao, founder of the juice drink brand Zest-O, was not available for comment.

Zest Airways currently operates a fleet of nine Airbus A320 jets and one Airbus A319, all of which have a flight range of four hours, which are insufficient for direct flights to the Middle East.

In the past, Zest Airways said it wanted to lease brand-new Boeing 777 aircraft—the same flagship planes marshaled by PAL—as part of plans to expand its reach in the region. Zest Air's international flights include services to Incheon, South Korea; Beijing and Shanghai, China; and Taipei, Taiwan.

Apart from Zest Airways, Cebu Pacific also has plans to resume flights to the Middle East. It earlier applied for entitlements to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Cebu Pacific resources put them entitlements when it starts long-haul flights in late 2013, after it gets its four Airbus A330 planes.

For its part, PAL already has its sights set flying to the Middle East, and has tried on several times to have direct flights to the region.

Undeterred, high operating costs and stiff competition from Arab carriers that get their fuel at a discounted have made these routes unprofitable, forcing PAL to halt flights to the region.

The country's international air travel sector grew by exactly a tenth in 2011, outpacing the growth of the global aviation sector, which suffered from economic crisis and volatile fuel prices.

Power Situation Outlook for Wednesday, 25 April 2012

	LUZON	VISAYAS	MINDANAO
System Capacity (MW)	9,779	1,191	909
System Peak (MW)	7,765	1,434	1,212
Price Scarce (MW)	904	247	213

PH to flaunt gains at ADB meeting

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE PHILIPPINES, host to this year's annual meetings of the Asian Development Bank, will flaunt the reforms it instituted over the past decade and the resulting macroeconomic achievements when delegates from various countries meet for the high-profile event.

Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the meetings, to be held in Manila from May 2 to 5, are an opportunity for countries to share knowledge that could aid in economic development, and the Philippines is poised to share its own humble, success stories.

"We will be able to demonstrate the positive effects of the reforms that we have implemented over the years and how these have helped bring our economy to growth," Tetangco told reporters.

The Philippines, although still confronted with problems on poverty and low foreign investments, is cited for having continually posted economic growth even at the height of the last global economic crisis in 2009. While most advanced economies and some emerging markets fell into recession that year, the Philippine managed to post a modest growth rate.

Private firms and the country's national government also were not significantly affected by the global crisis. Corporate profits, including those of the banking sector, remained healthy and the government remained able to tap international capital markets or raise funds at interest rates deemed reasonable.

Still, officials said that more crucial reforms in the country were those involving the banking sector, which significantly strengthened over the years after being hardly hit during the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s.

Regulatory reforms for the banking sector included adoption of prudent lending and risk-taking standards, tax incentives for sale of bad debts, and capitalization buildup, among others.

BSP officials said crucial to consistent policies of Philippine banks kept them from investing heavily in foreign currency-denominated derivatives, investments to which led to financial problems for many firms in advanced economies.

Tetangco also said the Philippines may contribute knowledge on maintaining a benign inflation environment, which keeps as prudent management of liquidity within the economy.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, officials said the Philippine government's ability to reduce its debt burden from a peak in 2004, when the government was said to be on a brink of a fiscal crisis, is another key achievements of the country.

The country's debt-to-GDP ratio hit a high of 78 percent in 2004, but is now down to close to 50 percent. The existing level is considered manageable based on international standards.

Debt-to-GDP ratio is the proportion of the combined debts of the government and the private sector to the country's gross domestic product.

SM PATRIARCH Tycoon Henry Sy Sr. (far right) sits with stockholders during SM Prime Holdings Inc.'s annual stockholders meeting at the Mall of Asia. Sy is chair of the giant holdings firm (see story page B4).

Dell™ PowerEdge™ Servers

Whatever your technology needs, Dell™ Servers can help you tackle the growing demands of your business.

DELL PartnerDirect Distributor

Dell PowerEdge T410

Php 108,700

Dell PowerEdge R610

Php 162,400

Php 188,200

Dell PowerEdge R710

Php 186,000

Php 212,800

Exclusive Distributor MSI-ECS

MOTORING

Tell us your feedback!
E-mail: motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Edna Jong R. Arzaga

'WHY 'FY?'

Pinoy car enthusiasts are asked why they modify Their answer: 'It's personal'

By Tessa R. Salazar

SELF EXPRESSION comes at a cost. No, it doesn't mean some serious jail time. The cost isn't political. It's literal. Especially in the world of "automotive-ding-ling"—that is, reconforming a stock car into an expression of individuality, making your own style into a ride that is truly your own—modifying comes at a price.

A veteran car show organizer has also revealed that here in the Philippines, self expression via car modification is more important than the cost it entails, at least for those who do get to modify their cars.

A survey by the Philippine Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association conducted during the 2011 edition of the Texas Sport Show revealed that 34 percent of the survey respondents ranked quality of the aftermarket modification as their top priority when modifying their own cars. Cost came in second at 26 percent (cookware third at 18 percent, followed by brand (15 percent), availability (one percent), and popularity (0.46 percent). Twenty percent of the respondents wouldn't make up their minds. The respondents were composed of 1,108 visitors—visitors to the Texas Sport Show and members of car clubs.

The survey was made last year and was revealed exclusively to Inquirer Motoring just last week, during the 2012 edition of the Texas Sport Show held at the SM Megamall Hall B in Mandaluyong City. The Texas Sport Show, at 25 years running, is the longest-running auto show competition in the Philippines, and the mecca for automobile modifiers and racecars.

Mixing statements

Almost 70 percent of those who customize their cars listed "personal statement" as their top reason for customizing, while 32 percent said they did it for function. Four percent did it for commercial purposes while only five percent did it for competition.

Notably, 39 percent of the respondents were Toyota owners, followed by Honda owners (24 percent), Mitsubishi (22 percent), Nissan (11 percent), Ford (8 percent), Isuzu (6 percent), while the rest owned Mercedes Benz, Hyundai, BMW, Mazda, Suzuki, Subaru, Porsche, Jaguar and Ferrari.

2 types of modifiers

Tessa Sport Show judge Ed Salonga, director of Manila Sports Car Club, described to Inquirer Motoring the two types of car owners. The first type of car owner is able to do whatever he or she pleases with his or her car because he or she has the money. These owners, he said, are catered to by the name brand products.

The second type is what he calls the "surplus" guy. "He still knows and likes his car, but he will rummage around for the surplus parts in order to modify. We don't have junkyards here like they have in the United States. In America there are the 50-dollar guys. They pay $50 going to the junkshops with their toolbox. They get as many parts as they need to get their cars up and running again. They'll clean it up, they'll try to make it new. They would probably upgrade their accessories—from a regular looking Supra to the top of the line Toyota using surplus parts. That's the other side of the Pinoy."

Salonga added that even among the moneyed car owners, there still is a subtype. The "new money" (self-made) new-rich class, and the "old money" (old-rich, inherited wealth) class. Ed said the "old money" class were the ones that wouldn't care about the costs of modifying.

Tessa Sport Show judge Boyet Sahagian agreed that the "old money" had to maintain a certain level of prestige, so they would buy the most expensive cars, as well.

"The 'new money' would never part with his own money just like that... He'd say 'you can't find me because I can buy a particular part in the States. I don't need to depend on your dealership. I can bring that in.'"

Salonga noted that such a "smart" car owner would not be necessarily buying a product of lesser quality but would need more to haggle with the dealer of the aftermarket product or service.

"He makes a full set of suspension [online] because he knows that if he buys it here it will run him 200 percent more. If he buys it there, it wouldn't cost as much as buying here. It's easier to Google for racing suspensions. Everything's there," Salonga said.

TURN TO P2 COL 2

1970 VOLKSWAGEN Beetle of Equal Trade (Best Hot Rod, Best Interior)

1 PKJ MINI Cooper of Equal Trade (Magsie's) Certified Car Crazy Award, Reserve Best of Show Nostalgic

1 PKJ TOYOTA Landcruiser 4x4 of Tyson Sy (Best of Show Nostalgic, Best Nostalgic SUV)

The 'zoom' is back

Mazda introduces the CX-5 crossover, new 3 sedan and hatchback

By Jason K. Ang

MAZDA 3 HB: one of the more enthusiast-oriented lineups in the local car market, but it has been a while since it has taken the wraps off a new model. When it rains, it pours—and more Mazdas hereabouts will now mean more variance: the all-new CX-5 crossover in manual and automatic, and the new Mazda3 sedan and hatchback, each in 1.6 liter sedan and hatchback, and 2.0 liter sedan.

The CX-5 is a showcase for two of Mazda's new developments: its fuel-efficient Skyactiv engine and transmission technology and its new styling language called Kodo-Soul of Motion (in appropriately catchy sepia English).

The Skyactiv 2.0 liter gasoline engine in the CX-5 uses direct injection, and an extremely high compression ratio of 14.1 to boost torque and fuel economy. To prevent the knocking that may be caused by the high compression, the CX-5 has a 0.1 centimeter shield to reduce buildup of high-temperature residual gas in the combustion chamber. The safety does not require premium fuel and can run fine on lower-octane, although 95 octane is recommended. Mazda has it that the CX-5 reportedly provides 15 percent more torque and 15 percent better fuel economy than a comparable-size gasoline engine. The engine outputs 167 horsepower and 210 Nm.

Slick feel

The Skyactiv is paired with an 6-speed transmission, either a quick-shifting manual or an automatic. The manual equalizes the clutch feel of the MX-5 sports car's shifter, while the automatic features lock-up nearly throughout its range to improve fuel economy. Drive gears in the front wheels only.

At for styling, shown a Mazda strong suit, the CX-5 embraces its new Kodo design theme.

The result is a passenger pen, tapered grille underscored by wing-shaped lines, prominent rear fenders, and plentiful crease lines in the side. It's best seen in profile, where you can see the CX-5's proportions: just leading to the "leaning back" of the side body, and on to the high rear deck. The roofline and silhouettes, relatively tall and long for its class, contribute to the impression of heft and size.

High-dashboard

Inside, the CX-5 has ample room for four passengers. The driver's chair, as expected, is positioned perfectly for driving, with a tilt-telescoping steering wheel. The high dashboard contributes to high visibility, and that also controls some orderly convenience functions such as lights and door locks. The trademark Mazda orange pictograph for the aircon has been moved to the center of the dash, just above the controls for the dual-zone air conditioning.

Piano black trim

The piano black trim that Mazda has been using to pleasing effect in the 6 and CX-7 is also present on the CX-5's dash.

On the road, with three and a half men on board, the CX-5 accelerates briskly. The Skyactiv 6-speed does shift quickly and smoothly. There are no shift paddles, but the shifter can be shunted to a gate nearer the driver to allow for manual shifting. What sets the CX-5 apart from a lot of similar-sized crossovers is the Mazda-trademark steering quick and responsive. This gives the CX-5 a remarkably sporty feel when cornering.

As for safety, the CX-5 has four-wheel disc brakes with ABS and stability control, and dual-stage airbags are standard. The CX-5 variant is an 18,990 million, and the automatic at 19,490 million.

'Zoom-zoom'

The car that embodied Mazda's new approach to motoring, the patented curvy but actually appropriate "Zoom-zoom" was the Mazda3. That was back in 2004, so the new model couldn't have come sooner. Driven as it was

2012 Honda Civic: More econ, less emotion

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN 4TH generation Honda Civic was launched in Manila in April 2006, Shinichi Takahashi, project leader of the Honda Civic Development Team, said then their aim was "to excite the customer by just looking, touching and driving the Civic. We wanted it to be a 'must' car." The title of my review thereon was "The Civic gets back its mojo" as I wrote then the totally new 2006 Civic was clearly designed to appeal to the emotions with a sporty and fun to calmly angled wind shield, aerodynamically flowing roof, tall forward cluster, front body, short overhangs and low ground clearance.

Fast forward to February 2012, when the long awaited 9th gen Civic was unveiled before the motoring media. Shunsuke Aono, Large Project Leader of Honda R&D Co. Ltd., said in his technical presentation of the 2012 Civic that Fuel efficiency, clean energy and smart technology were given high priority in its development. Aono also mentioned the "Fun to Drive" objective, but admitted that "Fun" and "easy to drive" are two terms to wonder what happened to the "sense" factor, the emotional and sensations more often than not evoked by the sporty Civic during its 4th year history.

The 2012 Civic was expected to be a full model change, but apparently Honda chose to play it safe by basically retaining the winning exterior shapes of the 2006 model, which was a best-selling nameplate worldwide. It has added improved fuel efficiency, riding comfort and a quieter interior as the major updates. You have to look hard to find the subtle changes in the new Civic's exterior, unless you look from the rear and see the new super taillights.

Carryover. The 1.8 liter, 140 hp SOHC i-VTEC engine with 128 lb-ft max torque is a carryover from 2006, likewise the 5-speed automatic transmission while most components have upgraded to a 6-speed AT or CVT. The Civic's 5-speed AT delivers power instantaneously but when the car reaches highway speeds it begins to feel a little flat and the driver yearns for a sixth gear. Honda claims, however, that the 5-speed AT is the most fuel-efficient tranny for the Civic.

The suspension is also the same MacPherson strut up front and Multi-Link at the rear, but Honda engineers say the suspension strokes has been increased four and all, the damper sliding function has been increased for improved stability, riding comfort and sound insulation and less transmission of road noise. A greater percentage of high-strength steel and is 7 percent lighter and 10 percent stiffer than before, Honda says.

Mindful now on the chassis. The power steering system tuned to less feedback than before and a greater sense of isolation from the road. Some may like this, but the sporty personality is lost. The new Civic feels larger than its predecessor as it moves into corners less authoritatively, has a stiffer body, increased sound deadening and slower steering ratio. A greater amount of body roll and understeer has also been noted.

Handling. The interior design of the 2012 Civic hasn't changed much, retaining the two-tier instrument panel. Instrument clustering - dials and gauges and hard plastics. What instantly catches your eye is the green ECON button on the left side of the dash. When you push the ECON button, the Civic's Eco Assist Technology is engaged, controlling the engine, drive-by-wire, transmission and air con to further improve fuel efficiency. When you drive aggressively, the fine-touching ambient laser on the bottom of the speedometer turns blue, then glow green when you drive in a fuel-conserving manner.

Another update is the instruments panel in the 5-inch Intelligent Multi Information Display that allows the driver to easily customize the various vehicle settings. The 1.8SD integrates Bluetooth, fuel economy data, trip info, climate, clock and audio, among others.

The cabin feels wider and more open due to thinner A pillars and a relatively low belt line. Visibility is good. The front and rear seats are comfy and easy to adjust, while legroom in the rear has gained some knee room. There are 12.1 cubic feet of trunk space.

Lighter. The smaller grille opening, club-sided body panels and flat underbody aside from the lighter weight of the Civic suddenly loses the aerodynamic drag and other features to fuel efficiency as do reduced internal friction and has a 6 more torque down low. The Civic averages 11 kilometers per liter in combined city and highway driving. Not too bad before. But that fuel efficiency is surpassed by some competitors that are quicker, more stylish, more spacious and have a lower retail price.

The Civic's safety rating is excellent. Dual front SRS airbags, Stability Control, ABS with electronic brake force distribution, brake assist, a rear view camera and front airbags. The Civic sold in each or markets has side curtain airbags. I feel I'm not sure whether the Civic sold here does. The only model sold in the Philippines at present is the 1SS IE imported from Japan with a suggested retail price of P1,079 million.

Bottom line. The new Civic is more fuel efficient, quieter, more spacious and more comfortable than before. It has more onboard technology, a proven reliability record, impeccable build quality and excellent safety features. It is easy and pleasant to drive, debuts good value for money and will have a high resale value. However, it lacks the passion and sporty driving dynamics of its predecessor and suffers many comparisons from other brands that cost less. Honda Motor Co. in Japan may be losing on its launch vehicle the 2012 Civic, but watch out when it wakes up to become the class leader again.

Unique blend of gasoline and electric power

UNVEILED at the 2012 North American International Auto Show, the Volvo XC60 Plug-in Hybrid Concept is an electric car, a highly economical hybrid and a powerful high performance car all rolled into one. At the touch of a button, the driver decides how the available power from the combination of fuel and electricity is used to propel the car and the electric motor is to be utilized.

"The technology in the XC60 Plug-in Hybrid Concept is as important as it is unique," says Stefan Jacoby, president and CEO of Volvo Car Corp. "You can make really great progress on the road without compromising any of the luxury car's now-revered properties. So far, however, we have succeeded in delivering fuel economy and electrical range on this level in a capable, spacious performance car with 350 horsepower on tap."

The world-class gasoline plug-in hybrid technology, featuring a state-of-the-art turbocharged engine from our upcoming Volvo Environmental Architecture engine family will reach our American showrooms in a couple of years. However, it is too early to say which model will be the first to feature this solution," Stefan Jacoby says.

Pure Hybrid Power — 3 cars in 1

The driver chooses the driving mode via three buttons on the instrument panel. The buttons give the car three distinct temperamental: Pure, Hybrid or Power.

In Pure mode the car is powered solely by its electric motor as much as possible. The operational range is up to 31 miles (charge-depleting range, UN certification driving cycle) with zero tailpipe emissions in actual traffic. The range according to the European certification driving cycle NEDC is 45 km.

Hybrid mode is the standard setting

The gasoline engine and electric motor cooperate to provide maximum driving pleasure with minimum environmental impact. According to the European certification driving cycle NEDC, CO2 emissions are 53 g/km (2.31L/100km) — which translates into fuel economy of over 100 mpg. Using the ICE certification standards, which reflect real-life emissions from the production of the electric energy, the combined fuel economy in continuous driving is 50mpg. The car has a total operating range of up to 600 miles (960km).

In Power mode, the technology is optimized to create maximum possible power. The gasoline engine with 280 hp and 300 Nm (208 lb-ft) is combined with the electric motor with 70 hp and 200 Nm (148 lb-ft). The electric motor's instant torque delivery contributes to the car's acceleration from zero to 100 km/h in 6.3 seconds.

The front wheels of the XC60 Plug-in Hybrid Concept are powered by a transverse turbocharged gasoline engine from the forthcoming Volvo Environmental Architecture (VEA) engine family. This engine produces 280 horsepower and maximum torque of 300 Nm (200 lb-ft). Power delivery to the wheels comes via a newly developed 6-speed automatic transmission.

The rear axle contains a "TH" badge, which emphasizes the combined 350 horsepower of the high performance four-cylinder engine and the electric motor. This moves the car into territory previously occupied solely by eight-cylinder engines.

Charge the battery at home

The rear axle of the XC60 Plug-in Hybrid Concept is driven by an electric motor producing 70 horsepower. It is supplied with electric power from a 11.9 kWh lithium-ion battery pack installed under the floor of the load compartment.

The battery pack is recharged from a regular power outlet, at home or on a parking place. Recharging time varies with the current. If 16A is available a full charge takes 3.5 hours and if 32A is available a full charge takes 2.5 hours. With 110V/12A a full charge takes 7.5 hours.

BMW supplies fleet of 5 Series to ADB meet

By Charles E. Buhay

WHAT COULD be more handy and dignified than alighting from a chauffeur driven black BMW 520d?

This is probably the reason why the leader and representatives of the 67 members of the Asian Development Bank has chosen the P4.99 million sedan as their official ride at the upcoming 45th AGM annual Meeting of the Board of Governors, which will be held in Manila May 2 to 5 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

About 4,000 attendees comprised of ministers and senior government officials, business leaders, fellow international financial institutions, and civil society representatives are set to attend this annual event that will discuss challenges and opportunities in country forum growth creation all members of society in Asia and the Pacific.

In fact, a fleet of 90 identical BMW 520d sedans was recently lent to the Philippine government by the Asian Containers Corp., BMW's official importer and distributor in the Philippines.

Premium mobility sponsor

"As the official premium mobility sponsor of the 45th ADB Annual Governors' Meeting, ACC formally handed over the fleet of BMW 5 Series to the Philippine government in a ceremony held on April 13" at the Manila Ocean Park's Marine Theater here, ACC president.

Aiming there during the event was ACC executive director for Sales and Marketing Glen Yang and BMW Group Asia regional manager for International Events and Special Sales, Thierry Weidenbach.

Receiving the units on behalf of the Philippine government was Department of Finance Undersecretary Leah De Leon, DOF Undersecretary Gil Beltran, and DOF Assistant Secretary Ferdie Halasan.

"ACC is honored to be an integral part of the 45th ADB Annual Governors' Meeting. We salute the ADB and the Philippine government in their efforts to address social economic issues and ensure a more progressive tomorrow for its member countries. We are in full support of this mission by providing the utmost level of mobility comfort, safety and security during their stay," said Dexter during the turnover event.

Brand new

Dexter informed that the 90 BMW 520d units are all brand new and shipped specifically for the occasion.

"Being the country's premium luxury automaker, ACC also sees as far as employing, grooming, and training all of the drivers assigned to transport the VIPs to ensure the utmost quality of service and hospitality," he shared.

But what happens to the brand-new cars after the event? According to Dexter, all of the BMW 5 Series will be sold as pre-owned units after the event.

"Since ACC delivered these BMW 520d units via flatbed carriers and will only be used to double the loaders and then staff during the airport, hotel, event areas, and a few unofficial side trips, it is expected that these sedans will only clock in a few hundred kilometers during the four-day event. This would be one great opportunity to acquire these vehicles as they will not only be sold at a much lower price (about P900,000) but the mileage will be thoroughly checked after the four-day economic event," Dexter said.

Dexter added that those who are planning to acquire executive and executive sedan ambition soon might want to head on over to the nearest BMW dealership and sign up for one considering a number of these units already has reservation.

HONDA PRESIDENT and CEO Tetsuya Matsumoto presents the all-new CR-V that features the highest-quality interior in its class.

Bitter motorist, gun: a bad mix

RECENTLY, AN acquaintance of mine found himself staying at the business end of a firearm inside a shopping center here in the Metro Manila. He patiently lined up outside the mall's carpark entrance inserting his parking ticket when another motorist—and his would be assailant—tried to cut in line ahead of him. Obviously miffed, my acquaintance honked his horn loudly. The cuts behind noticed what this motorist is planning to do and sided with my acquaintance.

Embarrassed at being singled out by everyone else, the motorist drove off.

Unfortunately for my acquaintance, this motorist was packing heat. He took note of my acquaintance for in a big fellow and then, easily identified and went to look for him inside the mall, simply to confront him and point his gun at him. The two men used the size who tried to cut in line earlier took out his weapon and threatened my acquaintance. Fortunately, the situation was diffused.

SKID MARKS

Butch Sarthou

While I am not here to give comments on the obvious, my point in bringing up this incident is that most Filipinos, after they've tasted some power, succor and connections, polished, police and military, think they are a cut above the rest and can do as they please while step on other people's toes, being great a firearm with a license to carry it on public places just makes things worse. Look at all the high-profile shooting altercations that we've had in the past. All the culprits later admitted to not having words carrying a firearm around. Studies the world over have shown that civilians with firearms tend to give them a sense of power and superiority, the ability to take life at my point from.

It's ironic that firearm use is the top deterrent to "with great power comes great responsibility."

Are we prepared to have that ability that power to take and end life with us?

Which brings me to my point. In each or countries, gun laws are very explicit. You can carry a firearm but there are very explicit restrictions: no full automatic weapons and submachine guns, nothing larger than a certain caliber, cannot be carried in a concealed manner and must be duly surrendered to the authorities when returning to a non-civilized environment. More laws exist than only individuals with an established threat of life and limb established by the police or other government agencies in their respective countries are allowed to own and carry a firearm in general. Dutiful citizens will no doubt follow a gun ban if the government enforces it, but criminals will still carry firearms, have guns in that. The government should better strictly enforce a new and comprehensive gun ban, have more police checkpoints especially in highly populated and affluent areas, and review tighter guidelines in owning and carrying a second. Ghastly only professionally trained individuals such as police, military and security personnel. Tell banks on toll roads, would make for an excellent place to put checkpoints.

What is the tolerance of firearms in a vehicle? There is no other day-to-day activity that can trigger murder the part an altercation where guns are involved than when inside a car. Like the aforementioned cutting in line on a long queue on a parking lot, counter-flowing, right of way to an intersection, the list goes on. People already have issues with traffic, pushing and being pushed to the limit up a bit. Add driving, to will take more time for the morning cultivate to improve but until then we must be extra careful and vigilant, allowing people to carry a firearm in public only makes things worse.

On the motoring side, we should all learn to space and place for people who have to change lanes to open up. A lot of motorists are lazy and inattentive; they leave huge gaps ahead of them in hopes to bumper traffic, which allows other motorists to cut in ahead of them, which can provoke an altercation. In motorways we should leave enough enough to leave a right lot safe gap ahead of us. Ideally no more than a meter or so to bumper to bumper traffic to keep the queue moving consistently and their would be less jumpers from entering in. And if we don't mind that someone else rides ahead of us in a line, remember that the person behind you might get irked and you'll find yourself in an altercation with the motorist behind you. In short, keep your eyes focused ahead even when things are slow and easy, make no room for would be line jumpers, and hook your horn respectively for timely to deter line jumpers.

Honda launches all-new CR-V

By Jacob E. Ang

IT'S BEEN a good week for crossovers, as had as the hosts of Manila's all-new CR-V, comes the 2012 version of the venerable Honda CR-V, one of the pioneers of the car-based crossover segment. The all-new CR-V features a new body and engines, even more refined interior, and new features to boost fuel economy.

The fourth-generation CR-V features a new body, styled in the vein of its predecessor but made sleeker and sportier. The front offers a better integrated version of the signature grille-now featuring three chrome bars as in the current Honda family look. The side has a kinked D-pillar and an impression of a massive rear section. The trademark high-mounted taillights stretch all the way to the roof for better visibility.

That roof line is 1 inch lower in old aerodynamic efficiency as well as to give the crossover a more hunkered-down appearance. Despite the lower roofline, CR-V still offers plenty of headroom, increased passenger volume, and the same ground clearance as the 2011 model. Honda says that this is the largest and most functional interior possible for a vehicle of this size. While greater body rigidity and additional noise insulation, the CR-V promises to a quieter ride than in the previous car.

The previous CR-V had limits down the highest-quality interior in its class, and the new car seems to follow that. Upgrades include an available new multi-information display, a 5-inch LCD that displays the audio/navigation information and other key settings. It also draws the image from the rear-view camera. The top-line EX-L has Bluetooth connectivity, allowing the phone to be controlled via steering wheel switches. The 60/40 split rear seats now fold and down using a one-pull lever inside the cargo area, to make for a flat loading bay. The top-line 2.4-liter EX instead gets a conversed as well.

It wouldn't be a Honda without advances in the drivetrain, and indeed the CR-V's new 2.4-liter gets a power and torque boost to 181 hp and 220 Nm, while getting ten percent better fuel mileage. The 2.4-liter engine comes with all-wheel drive. The CR-V's AWD system drives the front wheels only by default, and can quickly engage the rear wheels via an electronically-controlled multi-clutch system when slipping is predicted.

The 2.0-liter engine delivers 155 hp and 190 Nm, both engines have Honda's trademark iVTEC variable valve timing system. DOHC on the 2.4 and SOHC on the 2.0. All engines route to 5-speed automatic transmission with rather concentrated for front- or all-wheel drive. We missed the non-availability of the previous six-speed manual, with which the CR-V was easily capable of delivering double digit kilo/liter figures. The new engines, however, are mated with rather low-rolling resistance tires, which can do the all-new Civic launched this year; the CR-V features an Eco Assist that alerts driver for response, air-conditioning, and other functions to fairly boost fuel economy.

CR-V rides on MacPherson struts front and multi-link rear suspension, and on 17-inch alloy wheels. ABS and EBD brakes are standard, and the 2.4-liter model includes a full-assist feature that helps prevent the vehicle from rolling backward on hard-stall when driving on an incline.

The CR-V 2.0-liter LX retails for P1.425 million, while the all-wheel drive 2.4-liter GX is priced at P1.645 million. The white pearl paint version will be P100,000 dearer still.

The crossover market is exciting but, with more automakers than ever in different shapes and sizes. The new CR-V is a welcome addition, and may allow the former king of the hill to reclaim some of its glory.

EUROPEAN entries of Concept One Cathean Automobiles all wins awards

'WHY 'FY?'

From page B4-1

Dealers vs D-i-Yers

Galogahan added that it would now be harder for dealers to offer to such Pinoy buyers, but there again, he notes, and that the key to the Pinoy car after market issue is still the service.

Salcedo said that if a dealer is trustworthy, and the local physical presence of the dealership that assures the owners that the client has no choice is there for him, along with the expertise of the staff and technicians providing expertise the owners and parts for the car, then those would be the dealers/client/owners' advantages over other sidewinders.

"The dealer's expertise comes in handy compared to do-it-yourselfers. The dealer would tend to say 'I'm not just a distributor or reseller. I'm an expert. I know if the shock absorber for a particular car is okay or not. There are things I might want to put in as a client/owner to edge over guys who want to do it themselves. It's a tough thing. You want to build some trust and feelings. Once you get comfortable going, then people will come to you. But that will take a while."

Latest gadgets up for grabs during AAP membership assembly and elections

ITS EXCELLENCE more members is aimed to win annual general membership meeting and elections tomorrow, the Automobile Association Philippines is offering the latest gadgets as major raffle prizes. The annual endowment will be held at the ring Bobby ng Alumni, Ramon Magsaysay Avenue, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City with registration starting at 2 p.m. Mid-afternoon snacks will be served buffet style.

With the theme "Driving forward to the Decade of Action for Road Safety" AAP has invited Transportation and Communications Secretary Manuel A. Roxas III as the guest of honor and main speaker. The canvassing of ballots for the election of the 2012-2013 AAP board of directors is up prior-ity on the agenda, after the open forum wherein those present can ask questions and air their concerns regarding AAP.

The prizes up for grabs for the raffle are two units iPhone 4S (16 GB) worth P52,000 each as grand prizes, two units iPad 2 with Wi-Fi (16 GB) worth P30,500 each, six units Nokia 302 cell phone with WiFi, 20 units Nokia C101, eight AAP shoulder harnesses worth P6,800 each, 30 pieces 10 months and 10 pieces AAP polo shirt.

All members, whether present or not, are eligible to win a raffle prize. If the name of a member who is present is called two times, he or she is entitled to the prize with a higher retail price.

1stQ sales climb 44% for Hyundai

By Charles E. Bahan

HYUNDAI Asia Resources Inc. (HARI), the local and exclusive distributor of Korean automotive brand Hyundai, reported a 44-percent growth in sales in the first quarter this year after selling a total of 4,767 units compared to the 4,712 sold in the same period in 2011.

"As the Philippine economy headscraper continues to move from good to great, so does consumer confidence and Hyundai's strong sales performance for the first quarter. We are optimistic that this trend will extend into second quarter, with the Hanns making waves as Car of the Year for 2012, the launch of the new Hyundai H350, and our continued brand promotion efforts," said Ms. Pe Hwee-Ngoda, first president and CEO.

Ngoda shared that for the month of March alone, HARI was able to sell 2,345 units, a huge lead when compared to the 1,423 units sold in March 2011.

Three models

She attributed the outstanding rise to the strong sales performance of passenger car models namely the i10, Accent and the Hanns. The three models combined have reached 4,287 units, which is a 127-percent increase when compared to the same period last year.

For the month of March alone, total passenger car sales reached 1,316 units, a 158 percent increase versus the 509 units sold in March 2011.

Each models sales increase enabled it to enjoy a 37 percent sales increase in March 2012 compared to the same month last year.

Volvo's high five offer: Up to 5 years zero interest ownership package

TODAY is the best time to own an Volvo, says Volvo.

THUS TO its promise of ensuring cars that understand people, Volvo Philippines takes the unique experience a step further with a relevant ownership option. With Volvo's High Five Ownership Package, drive home a brand new Volvo starting April 13...for as low as 20 percent downpayment at zero interest for up to 5 years and reward yourself with uncompromising luxury.

PROMO OPTIONS	DP/MO
S80, XC90	30% Downpayment 0% interest for 60 months
S60 2.0L, T6	20% Downpayment 0% interest for 48 months
C30, S40, V50, XC60 T5, S60, V60, XC60 T5, D5, T6	30% Downpayment 0% interest for 36 months

Innovative and Intuitive

Innovative and intuitive, Volvo safety technologies are designed to give the driver peace of mind. City Safety, for example, is a world-first collision avoidance technology which prevents rear end collisions. This technology is local available or standard in the Volvo S80, V60 and XC60. Volvo S60 T6's Collision Warning with Full Auto Brake and Pedestrian Detection helps avoid collisions with unprotected road users by flashing a red light on the wind screen and an audible warning when a person is within range. Should the driver fail to respond in time, full auto breaking power is applied.

Functional and Natural

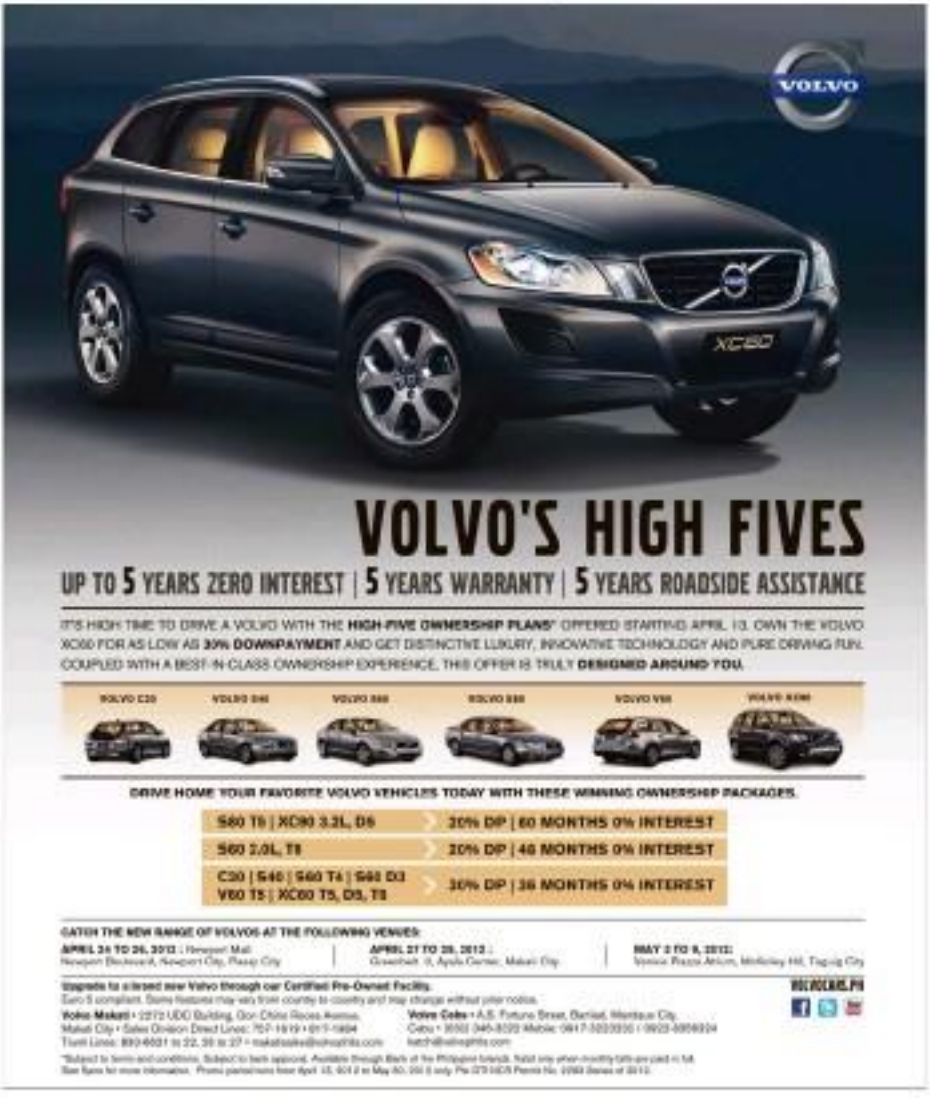
Volvo's new driver control interface called Volvo Sensus, allows you to conveniently explore the hi-tech features of your car and personalize them to suit your needs. All information is displayed on a high-resolution 8" or 7" color screen, which can also display the phone, park assist camera, DVD, digital TV, among others. Everything is conveniently controlled using the ergonomic steering wheel controls—so you can keep your attention on the traffic and your hands on the steering wheel. Moreover, every material in your Volvo is chosen for its quality, allergy reducing and non-irritable characteristics.

Engaging and Entertaining

The unique range of sleek smart and strong Volvos are available with state-of-the art turbo charged petrol and turbocharged engine variants which are optimized to deliver uninterrupted power output while ensuring that you get most out of every miles drop of your fuel. What is more, every Volvo engine is engineered to respond instantly to spontaneous adventurous drivers have to wait.

It is indeed high time to drive home your favorite Volvo. Built with thoughtful details and coupled with a winning ownership package, experience pure driving fun with the sleek, smart and strong Volvos that are specially designed around you.

THE ULTIMATE 0-Star Christmas Promo grand prize, a brand-new Volvo XC60, was awarded to jaysonic Guy Cinco (center) by Magsaysay Corp. Vice president and concerns (all) division head Kevin Tan (left) and Viking Corporation assistant vice president Lei Concepcion-De Guzman (right).



VOLVO'S HIGH FIVES

UP TO 5 YEARS ZERO INTEREST | 5 YEARS WARRANTY | 5 YEARS ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

IT'S HIGH TIME TO DRIVE A VOLVO WITH THE **HIGH-FIVE OWNERSHIP PLANS*** OFFERED STARTING APRIL 13. OWN THE VOLVO XC60 FOR AS LOW AS **30% DOWNPAYMENT** AND GET DISTINCTIVE LUXURY, INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY AND PURE DRIVING FUN, COUPLED WITH A BEST-IN-CLASS OWNERSHIP EXPERIENCE. THIS OFFER IS TRULY **DESIGNED AROUND YOU.**

DRIVE HOME YOUR FAVORITE VOLVO VEHICLES TODAY WITH THESE WINNING OWNERSHIP PACKAGES.

S60 T6 | XC90 3.2L, D5	20% DP | 60 MONTHS 0% INTEREST
S60 2.0L, T6	20% DP | 48 MONTHS 0% INTEREST
C30 | S40 | S60 T4 | S60 D3 V60 T5 | XC60 T5, D5, T6	30% DP | 36 MONTHS 0% INTEREST

CATCH THE NEW RANGE OF VOLVOS AT THE FOLLOWING VENUES:

APRIL 26 TO 28, 2012 | Newport Mall, Newport Boulevard, Newport City, Pasay City

APRIL 27 TO 28, 2012 | Greenhills 'O', Ayala Center, Makati City

MAY 3 TO 6, 2012 | Venice Piazza Atrium, McKinley Hill, Taguig City

Upgrade to a brand new Volvo through our Certified Pre-Owned Facility.
Euro 5 compliant. Some features may vary from country to country and may change without prior notice.

Volvo Makati • 2212 UDC Building, Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City • Sales Division Direct Lines: 757-1819 • 811-1604 Trunk Lines: 893-6631 to 32, 35 to 37 • makatisales@volvophils.com

Volvo Cebu • A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu • (032) 346-8222 Mobile: 0917-5223330 / 0922-8868824 banilad@volvophils.com

WWW.VOLVOCARS.PH

*Subject to terms and conditions. Subject to bank approval. Available through Bank of the Philippine Islands. Valid only when monthly bills are paid in full. See flyers for more information. Promo period runs from April 13, 2012 to May 30, 2012 only. Pre-DTI-NCR Permit No. (0992 Series of 2012).

425th Taguig City Founding Anniversary

iL Taguig

Jobs and livelihood prioritized in Taguig's foundation day celebration

BIKERS growth in retailing

Cast in the greater metro's shadows for the longest time, the city of Taguig is emerging to take its place as a major contributor to the country's growth and development. This has meant a redirection in local governance to meet new challenges brought about by the change.

A commitment to more jobs and improved livelihood opportunities for the new city's 650,000 inhabitants, the city government of Taguig has lined up a series of meaningful but fun-filled activities for its week-long celebration in observance of its 425th Foundation Day.

To kick start the week-long celebration, Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano led the "Martsa ng Kabataan, Trabaho at Kabuhayan" and ceremonial ribbon-cutting signaling the opening of The 7-Day Taguig Livelihood Career Expo 2012.

Other activities slated during the week include the following: Libreng Sakay "Pagpapagay sa Siyag ng Mangpapawong Taguigueno" (Free ride during rush hours within the city people); "Shoe Libre", a movie date of Mayor Lani with 1,000 kids and lolas at the SM City Bicutan; and the blessing of 95.1 million of disaster preparedness vehicles, equipments and humanitarian responder/rescue ambulances.

Mayor Lani will also hand the awarding ceremonies for deserving cooperatives in a simple program dubbed as "Sa Kooperatiba, Subay ay Ciglebanon Pamagad para sa Pinakamatatandang Kooperatiba sa Taguig."

There would also be a Kite Flying Competition with the theme "Lipad, Lipunang Masulad," a one-day medical and dental mission for the city's indigents.

Additional activities scheduled during the week-long festivities include the city-sponsored Gig on Taguig and Hotdog Contest; Bike Ride for a Cause; TODA Tapunan: Palarong Pinoy 2012 with tricycle operators and drivers as participants; basketball try-outs for 2012 DBA Coca-Cola young stars and Special Education Development (SPED) Buddy Day.

There would also be social services related activities like galay sandlogs distribution to selected farmer-beneficiaries; ground breaking and inauguration of hallway houses in Districts 1 and District 2, respectively; lake seeding, awarding of financial assistance for five victims of Bagyo Ulpan, an orbit-in-day mobile passport service on April 28, where Tagaigians can have their travel documents processed without having to go to the Dept. of Foreign Affairs office.

Mayor Lani is also scheduled to host a luncheon with the officers and members of Taguig homeowner's association on April 26, and officiate the mass wedding or Kasalang Bayan for 150 couples.

Of course, the celebrations would not be complete without a fireworks display, which would light up the skies over District 1 and District 2 between 8:45 p.m. on Thursday, April 26.

Taguig residents will also be treated to street dancing during the "Isulakan na Buong Lucio Global City" featuring the Taga-Gilit Street Dancing group that showcases the unique culture and arts of Taguig.

In recognition of the senior citizens' dedication of love and care for their family, Mayor Lani will award plaque and cash incentive to each of five identified Centenarians 101 last April 8, of Sto. 62 F. Manalo St., Ligid Tipas; Juana Fas Asas Bargo, 102, born on June 12, 1910, of No. 88 F. Manalo St., Ligid Tipas; Lupia Pabuna, 101, born on September 10,

(SEE 5A-1)

LIVELIHOOD for fishermen

PROGRAMS for the elderly

Experience the excitement of NY Big Apple at the Park West

The most anticipated development has arrived. Federal Land Inc. recently held its groundbreaking ceremony for Park West, marking the realization of its most ambitious, awarding and much-awaited project at Fort Bonifacio.

"This is certainly one of the most anticipated projects of Federal Land," revealed Federal Land president Alfred V. Ty. "For years now, our prospective clients and referral partners had been bombarding our sales team with queries on when our Fort Bonifacio project will be available for take up. After years of careful planning, it's finally here!"

This monumental project brings to fruition the formidable alliance of geniuses in the real estate, architecture and interior design. The synergy of Architect Rony Fiesco, Jerome Siatchoke of Gettyl Chicago, HOK (U.S.), and the property development mavens of Federal Land are evident in the development's stunning architecture and unparalleled attention to details. Indeed, Park West is the culmination of a brilliant masterplan, an ingenious application of design elements and principles as well as the sumptuous decors that are geared towards the satisfaction of a discriminating market.

"Each then, we can only guess that the scale of market reception," Ty adds. "But we knew we had a good product. Results indeed have been spectacular for Park West. Many A units are already fully expired out. The much-awaited Penthouse and Wing-B units, on the other hand, are now open for reservation."

Anchored on the sophistication of the New York lifestyle, Park West has deliberately been designed and executed with elegance as its core concept. From the dramatic lobbies to its stylish interiors, Park West shall speak of luxury at its finest. Its place de resistance is the enclosed gateway to Grand Hyatt Manila, the first luxury business hotel in Manila. Grand Hyatt hotels are located in key cities around the world such as New York, Hong Kong, Macau, Tokyo, San Francisco, Beijing, Shanghai and Berlin. The presence of Grand Hyatt in Manila, with Federal Land behind this remarkable undertaking, elevates the country to the same standing as those sought-after destinations.

Park West offers spacious 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom units with tasteful furnishings and finishes. All units are fitted with a balcony which affords an expansive view of the cityscape and beyond. In the posture area, villa-type units are available for discerning clientele who put high values on privacy and exclusivity. This elite crop of villa owners will enjoy direct access and first-hand view of the amenity deck.

The amenities are nothing short of exquisite. The infiuences for the design were derived from popular luxury resorts around the globe. The jewel of the deck is the infinity pool which is flanked by the lounge and al fresco dining area. Residents can also access advantage of other exclusive facilities such as the function rooms, multi-purpose halls, game room, fitness room, gym and business center.

"One can experience the best of dual address when at Park West Fort Bonifacio, Taguig; ordering the other are to your left allows you to reach Makati already. That's how close Park West is to both places," Ty adds.

Park West is conveniently located along 11th Avenue in Fort Bonifacio Global City and is within close proximity to St. Luke's Medical Center, SM, MC Home Depot, and premier educational institutions such as the British School Manila, Manila Japanese School and International School Manila and the world-renowned Lasalle showroom. The Fort is situated between the Central Business District of Makati and the shopping and commercial districts of Ortigas. It is bounded by major thoroughfares such as EDSA, C5 and Kalayaan Avenue, so accessibility is a major plus point.

With its contemporary architectural design and sleek glass façade, Park West can rival other upscale high-rise residential projects from abroad. "The difference is we have successfully envisioned the look and upmarket feel of popular luxury condominiums but at the same time, the product is reasonably priced," said Architect Rony Fiesco of Architects, Inc.

For more information, log on to http://federalland.com.ph or call 310-0222.

425TH FOUNDATION CELEBRATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

April 22

8am - Oil Barangay Hall to City Hall: Martsa ng Kalusugan para sa Trabaho at Kabuhayan

11am - Model House, Cityscape 8th E., Diliman: Launching of Taguig Livelihood and Career Expo

2pm - Villa Rosalinda: Gathering of CFARMC Officers

3pm - Sitio Mahilo, Upper Bicutan: Bisi sa Barangay Dry Fish

6pm - BMA Signal Village Elementary School: Foundation Day Concert Featuring Rockoglitterd

April 23

8am - 12nn - City Hall: Job Fair (April 23-April 27)

8am-4pm - Districts 1 & 2 Library/Galay: Pagsusuyay sa Ilang ng Barangayanong Taguigenio

8am-11am - Ramon St., Ibayo Tipas: Awarding of Financial Assistance to Five Victims

2pm - SM Bicutan: Sine Libre: Senior Citizens Movie Date with Mayor Lani Cayetano

7pm - At Barangays: Barangay Night Talent Competition (April 23-April 27)

April 24

8am - 12nn - City Hall: Job Fair and Medical Mission (April 24- April 27)

8am - TCA Grounds: Blessing of Disaster Preparedness Vehicles and Equipment

8am-10am - Summer Programs for Kids (All Barangays April 24-April 27)

1pm - SM Bicutan: Sa Kooperatiba Buhay ay Ugnihawa: Pansagal para sa Pinakamahusay na Kooperatiba

2pm - District 1 Barangay Lower Bicutan and District 2 TUP Taguig Campus: (ml) na Taguig

April 25

7am - Taguig City Sanitrad Stadium: TODA Tapatan Palarong Pinoy 2012

10am - City Hall Auditorium: Basketball Try-Outs for 2012 PBA Coca-Cola Foundation

10am - Sta. Ana Covered Court: Children with Special Needs Family Day

2pm - Sitio Mahilo, Upper Bicutan: Bisi sa Barangay Dry Fish

4pm - BMA Signal Village Elementary School: Foundation Day Concert Featuring Rockoglitterd

April 26

8am - Ibayo Tipas Trician: RIGAS Distribution

10am - City Hall Auditorium: Distribution First Aid Package to Homeowners Association & Luncheon with the Mayor

6pm - Fireworks Display

April 27

8am - TCA Auditorium: Kasalang Bayan

2pm - Turnover Ceremony of Different Livelihood Projects from DOLE-Muntinlupa amounting to P630,000.00

2pm - CE Road, Napindan: Lipad Lipunang Manobel - Taguig Kite Flying Competition 2012

4pm - Lake Sanctuary, Sea Breeze: Lake Bonding

8pm - Market! Market!: Ambayan sa BGC: Taga-Gilid Street Dancing Presentation

April 28

8am - City Hall Auditorium: DFA Manila Passport Services in Taguig

10am - Tuktukan, at the back of City Health Office: Groundbreaking Ceremony of Hallway House

10am - SP Building, City Hall: Awarding of Cachexanthes

11am - BLC Western Bicutan: Inauguration of Hallway House

6pm - TUP Taguig Campus: Mutya ng Taguig 2012 Coronation Night

April 29

2pm - City Hall: Bike Ride for A Classic Iso Free Eyeglasses

Pru Life UK and iBuild formalize financial literacy partnership. Pru Life UK and the Department of Education recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement to implement the Financial Literacy for the Youth Program in the BEGIN/EPIC program where pilot schools, Tagaytay Elementary School and Upper Bicutan Elementary School, have been established. In photo are Pru Life UK Presidents and CEO Antonio de Perez (standing, 4th from left) and Department of Education Undersecretary Mr. Dina Ocampo (standing, 5th from left) together with representatives of Pru Life UK, Department of Education, Provincial Counselors Asia (PCA) Regional Director for Brand and Corporate Affairs Dave Raul Lopez (standing, 6th from left), Pru Life UK Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer Mark Tengco (standing, fourth from right), iBuild Executive Director Maria Angelo Legaspi (seated) and students from Upper Bicutan Elementary School.

PRU LIFE U.K.
Always Listening. Always Understanding.
www.PruLifeUK.com

Jobs and livelihood...

From page B4-1

VIVA, of Block 30 Lot 30, Barangay General Bonifacio and Felina B. Robles, 100, born on March 17, 1912, of No. 6 Gopabuco St., Zone 3, Signal Village.

This is the first time in Taguig that centenarians will be honored and recognized for their contributions to the society.

Apart from the city-wide celebrations, barangay-level activities would also be held in connection with the Taguig founding anniversary, including the 6-day "Tanauan Program for Kids," where children can sing, dance, act, and paint.

Barangay Nights will also be held in the evening for 5 days with competitions in singing, dancing, pick-up basketball as well as for the rides of "Lenlen Mo, and Ms. Taguig."

To culminate the week-long foundation day, Mayor Lani will crown the winning candidates in the Mutya ng Taguig 2012 beauty tilt who will be named as Mutya ng Taguig 2012 International, Ms. Pilipinas Taguig, Ms. Earth Taguig, Mutya ng Taguig Pilipinas and Ms. Taguig World.

Special prizes will also be awarded to winning candidates for the following categories: Best in Long Gown, Best in Swimsuit, Best in Talent Competition, 1st Runner Up and 2nd Runner Up, the Ms. Photogenic, Ms. Congeniality and Best in National Costume.

TAGUIG CITY'S ADVOCACIES AND PROJECTS

EDUCATION AND SPORTS

MAYOR Lani's gift to 2,300 public school teachers on the occasion of the World Teachers' Day: P11 million in advance bonuses and cash gift.

THE City Government of Taguig began the distribution of school uniforms and school supplies just in time for the reopening of classes this year. Mayor Lani Cayetano led the hand out of school materials with Councilor Sigi Valenzuela de Mesa (right). Some 15,000 students and pupils from pre-school, elementary and high school levels all over Taguig City are expected to benefit from the project. Mayor Cayetano said the subsidy is in line with lightening the burden on parents' shoulders during numbered season, where expenditures can take its toll on many families. The total government fee allocated P284.15 million for the project for all 24 schools in the city.

ENVIRONMENT

LAKE SEEDING. Mayor Lani (in red shirt) joins the team of City Agriculture Office (CAO) headed by Emilio Isola in releasing the "tawilis" fish sanctuary or breeding area of Laguna Lake for the dispersal of 20,000 fingerlings of talon and common carp.

ECO-PARKING. Mayor Lani, Solid Waste Management Office Head Peanut Jan Tarog, and Barangay Caloocan captain Rommel Bayog leave fully grown parking area of trees (vegetables) planted by the city government in vacant lots.

BITERO CLEARING. A team from Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the City Government of Taguig patrol boats in clearing the Estero Creek in Brgy. Hagonoy, Taguig City.

CLEAN-UP. Manila mayors together with members of Manila Mayors Spouses Foundation Inc. and MMDA chairman Francis Tolentino (3rd) participate in clean-up drive as part of turnaround circus sweeping in line with the launching of MMDA's program "Metro Ko, Love Ko".

COMMUNITY SERVICES

ELDERLY. Caring for the elderly has been one of the priorities of Mayor Lani. Some P27 million of the Office for Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA) budget has been distributed to its 9,604 cash gifts worth P500 each to 21,000 senior citizens.

INFRASTRUCTURE

CITY LIGHTS. Mayor Lani, Sk president Ricardo Cruz III, Councilor Jimmy Laharoga, LMB president Rommel Tuazon, Councilor Sigi Valenzuela de Mesa, and Councilor Ronaldo Sarmiento, prepare to turn on the switch to light up C-6 to benefit motorists passing the coastal boulevard of Taguig as well as residents.

HEALTH

Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO), in partnership with City Health Office (CHO) Dental Division, conducted dental services such as oral health education, toothbrush drill, fluoridation and toothbrush distribution to children with learning disabilities from Special Education (SPED) learning cluster and children from different barangays who are currently not enrolled in SPED centers.

Live at Avida CityFlex Towers BGC and experience the difference. Located in the country's newest lifestyle and business destination, Bonifacio Global City. It is designed to give you the flexibility you need to give both your personal life and your work the time and attention they deserve. Choose one of our residential and SoHo (Small Office Home Office) units, a customizable space you can work with to fit your needs. Now, a truly balanced lifestyle is within your reach.

Avída CityFlex Towers BGC

Experience life from a different perspective.

For more information, call 848-5200 or visit www.avidaland.com

Avída

Special viewing day on April 29, 2012 (Saturday) at Teriyaki Boy - Market! Market! • 2pm - 6pm

AyalaLand PREMIER

YOUR LIFE BEGINS WITHIN A STUNNING SETTING

Completing the One Serendra community in a distinctive development that is the last of its kind, Ayala Land Premier exhilarates you with unlikely unions in the West Tower at One Serendra.

GRACEFUL SPACES. The traditional contents of a suburban house are set against the high-rise views that excite you. Expansive units and intuitive planning inspire movement, while the many fine fixtures within envelope you in an everyday experience of the elegant and sublime.

A FLOURISHING ENVIRONMENT. The gracious suburban retreat of One Serendra surrounds you in a radiant green unexpected in city living. With more than half a hectare of exclusive sports and leisure amenities, every day ventures an adventure, or an escape—reconnecting you with family, losing yourself in the moment, doing absolutely nothing at all.

A DYNAMIC CENTER. At the very heart of Bonifacio Global City, your days unfold a balance of live, work, and play. Shops at Serendra and Bonifacio High Street, an elevator ride away. International schools, medical facilities, direct links to Makati and Pasay—with everything you need and want close by, you never have to go far from your home that's hard to leave behind.

Suburban space. Abundant greenery. An unmatched city center location. Soaring above a city within any cities, the West Tower is a refined perspective on immediate escape and gratifying comfort.

WEST TOWER

at One Serendra

CALL (632) 908 3908 EMAIL ask@ayalalandpremier.com VISIT www.ayalalandpremier.com

Model units are available for viewing by appointment at the East Tower at One Serendra.
One Serendra is located at 11th Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

The particulars, details, and visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and as such are not to be relied upon as statements of fact. While such particulars and details are based on present plans, which have been prepared with utmost care and given in good faith, the public is invited to verify their factual and subsequent changes. The contents herein are subject to change without prior notice and do not constitute part of an offer or contract.

HLURB License to Sell No. 24194

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

THE CLASSIC banana-esque design

These playful, pretty poufs can make any room happy

People are grabbing Cookie Guerrero's colorful interior accents, decorated with her trademark embroidery

By Tan-Rejante Manalan
Contributor

THE SERVICEABLE OLD pouf stood by her dresser for years, and when Cookie Guerrero finally felt her stool was due for a makeover, she let loose her creative juices and went the full nine yards.

Enlisting the services of a former employee who worked as an embroiderer in her boutique that sold embroidered clothes, Cookie designed for herself a bright blue taffeta pouf with purple eyelids. All too soon, a good friend asked Cookie to make him one, too.

And that's how Cookie Guerrero's embroidery skills transferred from clothes to poufs, to the great delight of many, including this writer. Proof of this was a three-in-one exhibit in November last year at the Gallery of Casa Roces.

For nine years, Cookie ran a boutique called Sarong, located on the second floor of SM Megamall. Here was one of the few boutiques on the mall when it first opened. Catering to the high-end market with embroidery as the trademark of her dresses, Cookie did not just design the embroidery, but also supervised the artistry and color schemes in the ateliers, relaying her embroidery according to her specifications. "Never a straight line where flowers and nature are concerned," she says.

With her embroidery know-how now crisscrossed into poufs, Cookie's designs come in all sorts of playful designs and color combinations, the boldness of it reminding Roces especially is a wonderfully quirky blend of eclectic sensibility she gets from her mother, the artist Monica Roces.

Cookie sticks to just one pouf style: the classic tomato-esque design typically found in bandejas of ladies of leisure at the turn of the century. What makes her pouf's different from the bejeweled-and-lace forerunners

THERE'S

MISSONI's scarves for raising patterns and color surrounding black-and-white floral designs on the mirror frame played against the colorful, striped bedding.

A SUNBURST pattern is given cups of color through the Missoni Home accent pieces such as the lamp shade and pillowcases.

FOUR-POSTER gold-leaf-finish bed developed by Missoni Home for the Flagship suite

Missoni creates the 'it home' in Manila

It's a colorful new lifestyle for a luxury condominium

By Margot C. Enriquez
Correspondent

MILAN, THE Italian brand known for its trademark Argyle, Bermuda stripes, is opening doors to its high-end condominium here.

Acqua Livingroom, the world's first residential project by Missoni Home, promised a lot of buzz in the foreign press. Missoni's Rachael Ashley even said, "It is in the somewhere comprising hotels of Manila, Philippines." Make that along the Pasig River between Makati and Mandaluyong, to be exact.

One of the six towers of Acqua Private Residences developed by Century Properties, it is a breakthrough in presenting the full Missoni lifestyle.

"If the owner is for the 'it bag,' why not the 'it home'? That is very desirable. When people walk in and see the Missoni Home designed model suites, they subside over the unique product," said Mario Antolin, Century Properties managing director and project head for acqua.

Acqua Livingroom, with 441 units, posted 39-percent reservation sales on soft launch last month.

Unique

Like most of its residential developments, albeit sophisticated, Century Properties wanted to offer a unique home. Bobbie Antolin, managing director, who is also in charge of brand collaboration, said Missoni Home had done several hotels, but it hadn't ventured on a condominium yet.

Vittorio Missoni, shareholder and marketing director of Missoni Home, who attended the Acqua's dramatic integration of modern high-rises in a tropical rainforest setting, "It's a project mood outside but it will be a colorful host inside," he said of Acqua Livingroom's interior design in the public spaces.

Edoardo Boda, project manager of T & J Vertex SPA, the Italian manufacturer of home furnishing for which Vittorio's uncle is an owner, added that condominiums were uncommon in the Old World. Hence, Acqua Livingroom presented an opportunity for them to expand their portfolio. "We tend to answer the needs of clients, not just offer pieces for bed, bath and soft furnishing. It's a lifestyle," he said.

Filberto, son of the company founders Rosita and Ottavio Missoni, Rosita and Daniela Ahmad, creative director of T&J Vertex trademark Rosita Missoni's shirts, recently visited the country to launch the Missoni-designed model units and announce their plans for the public spaces.

"All interiors were each as the color centers, the hallway and the coffee shops are the expression of the color palettes that mostly reflect the style, home spirit and philosophy of the brand. Meanwhile, each apartment has been thought to express totally different faces of the kaleidoscopic and eclectic Missoni Home world," explained Missoni.

Put together

Missoni Home provided design solutions for four model condo units. Fresh and bright graphics make a compact and cozy spacious and cool space. For a small unit such as Delta, Antolin explained, "Bold Missoni Home patterns, including the iconic chevron and floral Trieste," elevate the space in a playful and pop way and also enhance the natural light to create contrast."

Musical colors and smooth and sleek surfaces also visually enlarge a condo.

The Artery Eclectic model unit has a more sophisticated look, with its wood-dense palette of gold with black, brown and beige, juxtaposed with classic floral patterns to complement the timber, mirror and glass combination.

Integrated furniture systems and space flexibility, while glass walls give the feeling of openness. The Hippychic unit is designed with wonderful details, entertainment modules, a hidden door and a sliding glass wall that lets in more natural light while keeping the privacy of each room. Modular twin beds or can a sliding one-bedroom sofa-bed can be made into a double bed. A striped mosaic detail in the main bathroom is a Missoni Home signature.

One can't go wrong with the classic black-and-white color theme. The Rainscape ("Cobble and Black") used a combination of black-and-white color stripes and geometric shapes on the mirror frames and walls that play against Missoni's trademark pop floral prints.

"In fashion, Missoni is famous for its 'put-together' look or the mix and match of fabrics and geometries and patterns. Anyone can mix and pattern and color according to his/her own taste. There are no ways to do it correctly. It is a matter of taste and balance. This is one of the characteristics of our brand style and philosophy," said Antolin.

The 12-story condo's highlight is the three-story Century Club on the crown of Acqua Livingroom, which includes an infinity-edge pool, a fitness room, a sauna and Jacuzzi, a lounge and lots of indoor-outdoor spaces.

Boda said T&J Vertex has been customizing new materials, wall treatments, details, furniture and products for outdoor lighting for Acqua Livingroom. He added it's a challenge to produce outdoor-proof materials.

"We've been using stainless steel and aluminum parts used for sailing and special color mixes exclusive to us. Missoni has been known for woven fabrics. We are also developing outdoor fabrics, which are a new technique for printing."

For the project, Missoni Home also customized a gold leaf, four-poster bed with hangers and cutaways of the head and sofa which backrest enhances the curves.

Homage

Asked about his personal favorites from Missoni Home, Vittorio cited pieces that are also featured in Acqua Livingroom: The Hay modular sofa, customized of a chaise lounge, sofa, ottomans and armrests, can be arranged in various combinations. Likewise, most pieces can be used as chaise rests. "Simone is another favorite because of its uniqueness and beauty. Although uncontoured, it softly hinges a lot function and aesthetic appeal to a space," he said. "Forest is comfortable because of its gentle roundedness.

The Missoni fashion heritage began in 1953, when Rosita and Ottavio Missoni opened a shop off Milan, selling knitwear. Vittorio credits his parents for their unflagging enthusiasm, which has been the company's growth. "My parents always had a passion to colors and talent in design, and how they used to create their own patterns—zigzag, waves and so-on."

Missoni added that it has remained a family business and will remain so even as kids, which is one incentive.

He added, "The Missoni identity can be translated into the home design...sunny, happy, colorful and mixing patterns and materials. The personality of Missoni is very festive, which is closely connected. Although we respect tradition, we still grow with the times."

On Missoni Home's popular pieces, Arlenni said, "Any objet can be a nice gift and its accessories like throw pillows, poufs, candles, trays and the towel range. There has to be difference from the collections on the market and can bring a completely different and bolder style to a classic environment. There are easy ways to add an iconic Missoni pattern or splash of color."

MISSONI Home's color palette reflects the tropical ambience of Acqua Livingroom. The modular sofas exude clean, simple shape. The pieces can be displayed in their own or arranged in groupings.

A MISSONI trademark—mixing prints and textural fabrics and contrasting stripes with its iconic floral patterns. The secret is the right scale of prints.

VITTORIO Missoni: "The warm home and the passion of my parents have been naturally transmitted to all the members of our family and will continue also in the future with the new generations."

EDUARDO Boda, GM of T&J Vertex, manufacturer of Missoni Home products

CENTURY Properties managing director Bobbie Antolin, in charge of brand collaboration, and Mario Antolin, project head of Acqua Private Residences

MODERN elegance is achieved with a splash of playfulness in a larger unit. Natural lighting is also enhanced.

KITCHEN built-ins in cabinets with Missoni signature wavy colors.

These playful, pretty poufs can make any room happy

From page C1

are the colors and designs which either go around like a kind of bands, or are scattered strategically in spot designs.

Circus characters

There are purple-hooded parrots with pumpkin-colored feathers on a circumscribed taffeta, for example, or fabric printed with circus characters, alternating with embroidered greyhounds with balloons on a citrus green background. There is bubblegum pink fabric embroidered with carrot-colored butterflies, and geometrics in vermilion and silvery green on dull-shaded amber fabric.

The combinations and figures are endless and wonderfully daring when viewed all together at her showroom. On her mock desk are designs in the making: colorful Cookie gargoyles and the animals of the Chinese zodiac.

Through the three-one-of-a-kind designs, Cookie will gladly customize to any color combination upon order. "I would like to think of my poufs as art pieces rather than commercial furniture," she says. "There's few people who do the work, so there is no possibility of major output." Customized poufs will take at least three weeks to finish.

Cookie's pouf only makes a room happy. As a dinner seat, it makes for something prettier to look at than your own face in the mirror. In a child's room, it can be cute and edgy (pseudo sophisticates). Cookie's pouch, which she calls Pouf, is something you can't have enough of—the kind of thing you conceive a genre in your home for, justifying it as a mood and not a want.

Pouf available at Cookie Guerrero's showroom, 7 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City, tel. no. 4360696, or Soho Bivara (#1 and 2) Tejeros, 179 Makati cor. Ortigas Sts., San Juan. Cell Line at (0917) 4136686

COOKIE Guerrero's designs convey all sorts of playful designs and other combinations.

COOKIE'S pouf as a dresser seat in your own room

AsPins get their fun day out

THEY ARE our faithful companions, long-suffering and much-abused, with no pedigrees or fancy titles...but that doesn't make them any less loved.

PAWS spokesperson Fleurt Evangelista

KING with her adopted aspin Pogie

Calling all mixed breed and native dog owners, new lovers of aspin or scrag Pinoy: the PAWS (Philippine Animal Welfare Society) Aspin Club, in cooperation with Trader Pizarra, will be shooting its first charity event for this year, Ready-Set-Doah, on April 29. Sunday, at the Trader Pizarra, McGinley Hill, to raise funds for the PAWS Animal Shelter.

Run, hop, dig and leap in the fun canine obstacle course. No agility training required! All canine participants must be well-socialized and female dogs must not be in heat. Please bring your dog's updated vaccination records as she will be checked upon registration.

Special guest is PAWS spokesperson Fleurt Evangelista, who will unveil PAWS' new aspin campaign during the event.

Everyone is free to all PAWS Aspin Club members, while a P500 fee will be charged to non-members, which is inclusive of a free shirt and freebies. Registration starts at 2 p.m. Race begins at 3:30 p.m. For inquiries, please call 4753688.

The PAWS Aspin Club was launched last April 24, 2010, at the Ground Central Plaza. The club is open to all native and mixed breed dogs and aims to provide owners an opportunity to socialize their aspins through fun pet activities and to promote the welfare of native and mixed breed dogs through education, lobbying and campaigns.

Ready-Set-Doah is made possible through the generous support of Alpo and Beneylab Canine Behavior Center. Special thanks as well to Frontline Plus and Wellmond's.

Manila music festival

WHAT'S UP

LIFESTYLE Parenting

EXPERIMENTATIONS IN FATHERHOOD

Should your wife eat her placenta? Or give birth underwater?

Decisions... options... for today's dad

By Vincent C. Sales
Contributor

TIME TO panic. Our second baby is due in one month, and we haven't even settled on a name yet. Having been through this all before, I thought it would be easier the second time around, but that's just not the case.

My wife and I know better now. We know more. We're faced with a ton of options that we weren't aware of before. Some of these options are more of the usual, some are cutting-edge science and some are just plain bizarre.

We're talking "forever"'s bag-saving breakfast blasters. We're talking everything from giving birth underwater, to freezing your baby's cord blood for future gene therapy, to cooking your placenta and churning down on it later. Yes, there are the options we're faced with in modern childbirth. Just relax and enjoy the show. Oh, and feel free to panic at any time.

Water birth?

Speaking of panicking, that was what I was doing when our first baby was being delivered. I was a deer caught in the headlights, mesmerized until the nurses screamed at me to start taking pictures. My wife, unavailable, turned out to be some kind of Olympic champion of childbirth. She was fully dilated in the minutes before the doctor even arrived in the operating room, pushed my baby boy out in five epic pushes, and later had the audacity to complain that she didn't need the epidural. I beg about her every chance I get.

It's no wonder then that this time around, our OB recommends that we do a water birth, or as I see it, she wants to raise the difficulty for my Olympic champion.

The benefits are clear: it's cheaper. There are other benefits such as less trauma for the baby (provided for the mother than interaction in water given, and the lowered cared for an episiotomy (look it up!), but I didn't hear anything else after the doctor said that it's cheaper.

So we went on the tour of the St. Luke's Global City water birth facilities, where the nurses proudly showed us the humongous birthtub and gorgeous suite, and whispered to us that Sharlyn Lara had given birth there. And boy, if it's good enough for Sharlyn Lara...

...it may not be good enough for the wife, who voiced discomfort about giving birth naked in a giant bathtub, far from pain-killing drugs and baby-monitoring machines. Critics of water birth also point out the increased risk of infection as you get water all the way up your wazoo, though the numbers show no significant difference.

Save the cord blood? Or save money?

Another difficult decision that we'll have to make soon is whether to save the baby's cord blood or save that money for the kid's future instead.

Cord blood contains stem cells, and if you paid attention during science class, then you know that stem cells can differentiate into any cell that the human body requires. Say, if you develop leukemia, then your body needs new bone marrow. The stem cells from cord blood can be made to create this new bone marrow. Have a hero? Again some stem cells on it to make new skin. It's literally the future of medicine.

Science class over. Here's the wager: Saving your baby's cord blood can provide a more treatment for 80 diseases, such as some forms of leukemia, lymphomas and cerebral palsy. This branch of medical science also promises even more cures for things like heart disease and diabetes in the not-too-distant future. On

Practical tips for baby's day out

WITH THE WHOLE family in summer vacation mode, traveling with baby should be a great bonding experience. The key to a fun, stress-free trip is to be prepared and well-informed. If baby can't be in one place, Baby Company shares some practical packing tips for baby's day out:

+ Have a compact and lightweight, yet safe and sturdy stroller that can be easily folded and secured in baby carrier is another convenient option to keep your hands free.

+ Stock your bag with plenty of reliable diapers, the more the better. It's also good to keep a changing pad, rash cream and hand sanitizer or antibacterial wash handy.

+ Baby wipes are travel must-haves for wiping and cleaning baby as well as blotting stains and spills.

+ Bring extra baby food, milk or juice and at least three bottles or sippy cups, so baby won't be hungry on the go. Also bring bibs and burp cloths for cleaning spit-up and other spills.

+ Toys are travel must-haves to keep baby happy, calm and preoccupied. Bring extra and rotate them by attaching to the car seat or stroller to prevent baby from losing his favorite toys.

+ Be prepared for baby spills and nappy accidents with extra clothes to keep baby clean and comfy. Bring extra socks and sweaters for warmth and protection in air-conditioning, or for the cooler climate outdoors, especially at night.

For more travel essentials, visit the Baby Travel Gear Sale at Baby Company, and enjoy up to 50 percent off on selected items, such as carriers, strollers and walkers.

Shoppers will get a chance to be one of five winners of a Hong Kong trip for three (including airfare, accommodations and Disneyland tour). Every P2,000 purchase of

DISNEY Baby stroller converts from pram to pushchair and adjusts from forward- to parent-facing. Available in Minnie Mouse, Mickey Mouse and Winnie the Pooh designs

LINCO baby bibs with cute duck and giraffe designs

BABY Company Hypoallergenic Anti-Bacterial Hand Wash

any cashier, wheeled item and Internet at BabyCompany.com.ph until April 20 entitles one to a raffle coupon.

Baby Company is at all SM Department Stores and specialty shops at The Podium, Power Plant Mall, The Annex at SM City North Edsa, SM Southmall and SM City Cebu. Visit www.babycompany.com.ph, and find us on Facebook.

ERGO Sport Baby Carrier features ergonomic design that supports the correct sitting position for baby's hip, pelvic and spinal development

Tripp Trapp: The chair that grows with the child

STOKKE'S Tripp Trapp high chair

THE TRIPP TRAPP Chair created in 1972 by designer Peter Opsvik has never been better. Back then, no one had seen anything like the Tripp Trapp, and almost 40 years later it is still unique: the only child's chair that can take you from baby to adult, keeping you secure and comfortable all the way.

The Tripp Trapp designer's inspiration came from watching his own young son. Tor, struggle to find a comfortable position to sit in at their family table. Having grown out of his old fashioned highchair, but still far too small to sit on an adult's chair, Tor was left dangling his legs and struggling to reach the table.

Tripp Trapp provides a stable footrest that supports a child's feet and allows sitting at the correct height, allows on the same level as the table, in comfort and security.

Moreover, the Tripp Trapp chair's unique depth adjustability ensures that no matter how big or small the baby, his or her feet and back can be perfectly supported. It can adjust to custom-fit your child's body enabling comfortable and natural ergonomic sitting.

Tripp Trapp is made from environmental beech wood and comes variations in a selection of colors (green, classic gray, yellow, red, walnut brown, turquoise).

Stokke's Tripp Trapp high chair is available at Auction's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang

TRIPP Trapp provides stable footrest that supports a child's feet and allows sitting at the correct height.

Children with autism don't need to be 'fixed'

The biggest and most important factor is the willingness of parents to first accept the situation. After that, it is vital that they learn to accept what their child does and can do

FOR TOO many people, autism is simply a word used to broadly describe anything different. Autism is a real joke or insult. Autism is something that "other" families deal with. It is a complicated puzzle meant for doctors and scientists to unlock. In other words, it's not our problem.

But nothing could be further from the truth. We all share one world, where autism is quickly becoming more and more prevalent with each passing year. What the future holds for autism is anyone's guess, but here we choose to understand it is vital to making sure that parents with autism have a better future.

Autism is not just autism. It is a spectrum, which is why it is now called Autism Spectrum Disorder. ASD is a range of conditions that includes classic or Kanner's Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS). These conditions are classified as a pervasive developmental disorder.

What does this mean? I consulted a family friend of ours, Bunny Aragon, who is the founder and director of three intervention Centers, a local school specializing in educational intervention services for persons diagnosed with ASD.

Basically, she explains, here is a person with an inability to see anywhere within the spectrum. "You can be anywhere with totally high (Asperger's) or really low levels of function (Kanner's), or you can be somewhere in the middle."

Most of the "experts" quoted, opinionated disorders" is how she listed in www.autism.org as "a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them."

It is not a disease, but a neurological disorder. It is characterized by "social impairments, communication difficulties, and restricted, repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior," according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

When we speak of neurological disorders, we are speaking of the way one's brain develops. Brains take the most neurological disorders can begin as early as within the first three weeks of pregnancy. The US National Library of Medicine's website, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/, health has a comprehensive section dedicated to ASD, which explains that the way the brain processes information and communication skills is impaired by "abnormal biological and chemical" processes. There is still much debate as to what causes this, but genetics seems to be the general consensus.

There are a number of other suspected, but unproven "causes." While there are families that feel absolutely certain that autism is caused by the vaccinations they received or gave their children, the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as the Institute of Medicine believe that these shots are far more beneficial than they are a risk.

Also, a report on CNN tells us that the 1998 published study established by Dr. Andrew Wakefield, which suggested a correlation between autism and vaccines, was recently retracted. Wakefield's license was revoked upon the discovery that he fabricated statistical data and that he failed to disclose that he was compensated by a law firm, which planned to sue vaccine manufacturers.

Spectrum

When it comes to the characteristics of ASD, the three components followed by are limited by communication, social interaction and behavioral problems, in varying degrees, according to where along the spectrum the child is.

As early as 15 months, parents may already notice a baby's delayed speech, lack of interest in playing with other children and eye contact. Conversely, they may also show an intense fascination for one object or practice for an extended period of time.

Communication problems may be harsh verbal and nonverbal. Some have complete difficulty with speech. Others may be able to converse, but speech may be strained in some areas too, to recognize speech patterns, expressions and non-literal meanings. However, some people are able to conversationally speak around communication problems by turning to other mediums, such as text and sign language.

Social interaction is usually affected due to the fact that the autism has its own culture and way of seeing the world. The above-mentioned lack of social skills may also hamper the development of friendships. Some display a lack of empathy which also hinders them from developing relationships with others. The key is for everyone to extend the necessary understanding to get things rolling for the children.

Behavioral problems may include the "stereotyped," such as repetitive actions (lining up one's head or wrapping one's hand), object or activity fixations, and sensitivity to changes to their ordinary daily schedule.

Sensory deficits are also part of this and refer to the way the senses react to ordinary stimulation. Some children show increased sensitivity to external stimuli, such as calling their name and loud noises, while others show heightened sensitivity to everything.

Diets and sensory management are also addressed in other persons and is deployed as they repeatedly hit or bite themselves, while in other cases, they refrain from physical contact as it is "overwhelming and over-stimulating."

Now for the cure. However, many of its symptoms may be addressed and improved through a number of methods, depending on the level of severity and therapy received. Success should be prevalent in developing the skills most suitable to the type of skill a child may have.

The right screening and tests are needed to have the right information to work with. Some of the methods of treatment available are applied behavior analysis, medication, occupational, physical and speech language therapy and diet.

Based on her experiences, Bunny recommends intervention as early as possible. When she talks about her students who have "graduated" and integrated successfully into regular schools, she gives much credit to the individual person's will.

However, when it comes to treating symptoms, she says the biggest and most important factor is the willingness of parents to first accept the situation. After that, it is vital that they learn to accept what their child does and can do, and that they remain motivated to continue supporting their children. Support must be consistent at home, not only in intervention and therapy centers.

Audrey Tan-Zubiri

MAMA DIARIES

Rising incidence

CDC recently did a story on the rising incidence of autism in the US, where it is estimated that one out of 88 people have it. In the Philippines, there is a recorded one million cases, but this does not include undiagnosed cases as well as many of those in rural areas. If we are to assume that we have a population of approximately 95 million, then that would be one out of 95 Filipinos.

We would think that with a number that big, autism would be more easily understood and accepted. Bunny laments that the opposite is true.

"We have the laws but there is no execution." By this, she means there might be education by being integrated into regular schools. "If our kids can't handle the academic aspect, they should at least be allowed to be integrated socially through other activities such as clubs or sports."

Unfortunately, many schools have been steadily closing their doors, to the parents, leaving many children with autism outside in have the opportunity to have a proper education or be "mainstreamed."

Another challenge is participating in the community at large without being discriminated against for their behavior. Some people try everything they can to "cure" this "behavior," but Bunny quotes a woman with autism: "We are not sick. We were born this way. What I have may be puzzling, but I am not a puzzle to be put together. Teach me how to survive, but don't change who I am."

Dalisay, I found one parent who wrote that she "dreams of a world where my children and I can just be ourselves without the fear of reprisal. A world where my daughter can have a meltdown in public, due to over-stimulation, without people looking at me like I am a bad mother. A world where I can tell someone that my child drives and I see panic, without being told, 'But you seem perfectly NORMAL!' Maybe in time, her dream will become a reality.

And lastly, perhaps the most different, equal opportunities for employment. "Unless employers change their screening process and begin to match skills with those of specific job requirements, then persons with autism will always be at a disadvantage," she explains. But without employment, what kind of future can persons with autism have?

As a final reminder before April, Autism Awareness Month, ends. Nobody likes the word disability, and many parents are intolerant. What is needed is consideration, understanding and acceptance. As one line from a comment on an uploaded video says, "I've been told all my life that I need to be like the academic super kids. On the academic aspect, I'm wrong with me because I'm autistic. Autistic don't need fixing. We're not broken. We're people." That is certainly worth remembering.

Disclaimer(s): This article is in no way a substitute for professional medical advice, nor do I claim complete accuracy. I have written it to the best of my knowledge based on research and interviews. If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to send them to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph and I will make the necessary corrections next week. Thank you.

Mama Interventions Center is at 80 Sitio Capulong, Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig, and can be reached through 6775757 or www.mamainterventions.com.

FUN WITH YOUR KIDS

Enjoy a space adventure with Barney

By Pam Pastor

Let the lovable dinosaur and his friends take your whole family on a musical journey to The Perfectly Purple Planet

IF YOUR kids are fans of the big purple dinosaur, here's a treat they can't miss—"Barney's Space Adventures."

What: Barney returns to Manila to take you on an outer space adventure, as the Barney and his friends as they head to The Perfectly Purple Planet and get to know the magic purple kingdom's colorful and friendly inhabitants.

Witness the grand royal ball hosted by King Rhondo and Queen Purple Iris. The musical, which was based on the popular TV show "Barney and Friends," will feature a fun cast of 11 that includes Bj, Baby Bop and Counts Kill. The cast will perform your kids' favorite Barney songs. The show was produced by Inside Live Entertainment and HIT Entertainment and presented by Lizzie Mine Theatrical productions.

Rom: Choose a show date and buy your tickets. Tickets are available at all TicketWorld outlets, selected National Book Store branches, Robinsons Department Store (Galleria, Shaw, Metro East, Festival Mall and Starmall Pampanga), and Ayala Center (Greenbelt 1, Glorietta 4 and Trinoma Mall Cinema Booths). TicketWorld offices at 6793 Ayala Avenue, Suite 701 V Corporate Condominium. Call 726-9988 or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph and www.facebook.com/ticketworldmanila.

When and where: This musical will run at the Alle Theater from April 26-29. On April 27, the show will start at 7 p.m.; from April 27-29, show times will be at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Time out: The show lasts for 90 minutes, with two acts and a 20-minute interval.

Cost: Tickets are priced at P1,200, P1,900, P1,000, P1,000 and P700.

Why your kids will love it: They will get a kick out of seeing Barney and his friends live. The show promises fun, excitement and music for Barney lovers of all ages.

Read offers for couples for adults, too.

Why it's good for them: The show is educational, too, and teaches lessons about growing up with love and music.

Should your wife eat her placenta? Or give birth underwater?

From page D1

the other hand, the chances of your child getting one of the diseases that could blood into toxic today are incredibly slim to non-existent. On the other other hand, having a mom for one those diseases would be priceless.

The price of this wager? A soldier-getting P40,000 plus NO upon signing up, and another P8,000 plus NO for every year thereafter until your child is 18, at which point you can choose to transfer ours to him or her. Hmmm...

Your placenta: Throw away, keep or EAT!

After the successful birth of our first son, a nurse popped in to ask us what we wanted to do with the placenta. She had the thing in a see-through plastic bag, and it looked like two very bloody kilos of lean beef, or a liver, or something in between. The last response in my head was, "I'd like to cook it and I feed it to my wife."

More seriously, "Bizarre food." Moms and more people are saying that eating your placenta after childbirth is a good idea. Or would it just be the latest fad?

The practice of eating your placenta landed on our radar as my wife was researching ways to avoid post-partum depression. The numbers vary, but it's estimated that 80 percent of women experience some form of post-partum depression, and my wife was one of them.

It's believed that eating your placenta can reduce post-partum depression and do a whole bunch of other good stuff, like help mothers' uterus return to normal size and even stimulate milk production.

If you're interested in shoving down on your afterbirth after birth, you should know that as of now, there are no medical institutions that support this practice in the Philippines. Expectant moms can be hospital, however, it is mostly not difficult to some home with your placenta since the practice of burying your placenta in your backyard with a tree is outstanding here.

Preparing the placenta for ingestion remains a distinctly DIY process. You choose it, dry it, grind it and then put them in pills that you ingest like medicine. (So there go my dreams of seeing my wife scarf down a chunk of raw meat like Daenerys in "Game of Thrones.")

Jenny Ong, from the blog Chronicles of a Nursing Mom, had her placenta encapsulated in the States. "While my first baby, I cried every day from day three until about the way one month," she said. "With I [my second child], I only cried once the entire time.

"I managed to take care of both kids without losing my sanity," Jenny went on to say, something that we're hoping for with our second baby. "I also felt like the [encapsulated] placenta] helped my milk supply."

The older I get, the more I realize that unlike the Rolling Stones song, time is not on my side. In less than a month, my wife and I will have to decide on a number of things that may affect the rest of our lives in very significant ways. I don't know what we'll decide on right now. I only know that the choices we make will be with our little kid's best interests in mind. That's all the world asks of us. And in the end, whatever happens, everything will be fine. No need to panic.

All Aboard!

Take the M/V Sole Cruiser to travel in luxury and arrive in style.

Pack your bags

and we'll take care of the rest

Pico de Loro Beach & Country Club members and their guests may now travel from the city to Pico de Loro Cove at Hamilo Coast in just 90 minutes via the M/V Sole Cruiser.

Those who prefer to travel by land may opt to take the luxury bus coach.

Please call the Customer Care Hotline or send an email to customercare@hamilocoast.com to book a reservation.

The ferry departs from the Mall of Asia Pier, located beside 1Esplanade, within the Mall of Asia Complex. Bookings should be made at least 3 days in advance.

pico de loro cove
BY HAMILO COAST
Everyday's a holiday!

Customer Care Hotline: Mon-Fri: +632 822 8222
Membership: +63 (0)49 554 1000 / +632 214 1000

www.hamilocoast.com

Holy relic of St. Clare of Assisi in Ali Mall

THERE WILL be a public viewing/veneration of relics of St. Clare of Assisi on April 28 at the Ali Mall Chapel in Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City. The veneration will be at 2-6 pm. Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. by Cubao Bishop Honesto F. Ongtioco.

St. Clare of Assisi was an Italian saint and a devoted follower of St. Francis of Assisi. She founded a religious order called San Damiano, which is now known as the Order of St. Clare, or the Poor Clares.

Power Mac Center joins Earth Day

To promote environmental awareness amongst its customers, Power Mac Center, a chain of retail shops and service provider of Apple products and premium accessories in the country, joins the planet's Earth Day celebration with the launch of its digital artwork contest entitled Green Canvas, espousing the message, "Paint a picture. Help the planet. Spread the word."

All Philippine-based graphic designers are invited to participate by submitting environment-themed artworks or digital format (softcopy) on Earth Day, April 22, until May 22, 2012. The best entry wins a 16GB iPad 2, Targus stylus pen and 5,000 Power Mac Center Gift Card. Entries must be sent via email at market-ing@powermac.com.ph.

Visit www.facebook.com/PowerMacCenter and @PowerMacCenter on Twitter.

Sun Cellular after-sales

Sun Cellular is making available more payment channels for their postpaid subscribers. Reuben Pangan, Sun Cellular vice president for customer relationship management says they want their subscribers to experience mainstream after-sales convenience. Instead of waiting in line at Sun Shop outlets or Digital Business centers, customers can make over-the-counter payments in 12 accredited banks including major institutions.

Over-the-counter transactions can be also made through select accredited agents. ATM payments are also accepted via Bancnet, Megalink, BPI Express Teller and Union Bank ATM Machines. Phone and Online banking are also made available via Bancnet online, BDO Phone Internet Banking, BPI Express Teller/Express Phone/Express Online, Equitable PCI Bank Online, Metrobank ATM Access, Union Bank phone and online payments.

'FORBIDDEN BROADWAY' IN RCBC THEATER OPENS ON MAY 11

"The Funniest Show in New York" (The New Yorker) that has been leaving critics and audiences in stitches since its debut in 1982 is now in Manila for its 10th anniversary. Ajuart Productions presents the "gut-bustingly funny" (The New York Post) off-Broadway smash "Forbidden Broadway," featuring panel performers like Aiza Seguerra, Nyoy Volante, and Jett Pangan. It runs May 11-13, 18-20, and 25-27 at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati. Created by Gerard Alessandrini, "Forbidden Broadway" is a "consistently riotous" (The New York Times) musical revue that features hilarious songs from the most popular Broadway musicals—"Les Miserables," "The Phantom of the Opera," "Rent," "Mamma Mia," "Wicked" and "Cats"—with hilariously clever new lyrics that poke fun at the shows themselves, just like the directs. The cast includes Lizo Bautista, Celso Barrameda, DJ Mariano and Lorenzo Martinez.

CARES

EARTH DAY AT THE SM SUPERMALLS

SM Supermalls celebrated Earth Day by hosting a mall-wide Trash for Cash Recycling Market.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle were the buzzwords of the day as thousands trooped to the malls to exchange trash for cash.

SM is the first mall developer to conduct a recycling fair of the kind launching it in SM City Fairview then 24 malls in 2007.

Since it began its progress, the Trash to Cash Recycling Market has generated total sales of almost 58 million pesos that indeed proves there is cash in trash.

In 2011, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity awarded SM Prime Holdings, Inc. with the "Friend of Biodiversity" citation for the Trash to Cash Recycling Market. The award is given to individuals and organizations that help conserve biodiversity through environment-friendly initiatives.

Earth Day at SM Supermalls 2012 Score Card	
Participants	TOTAL
Vendors	5,178
Residents	4,260
Employees	464
Others	288
OVERALL TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	10,200

THE PAPER TRAIL

940,840.02 kg. for papers and 2,913,921.46 kg for cartons for the last 6 years. SM's Trash to Cash Recycling Market helps incentivize traded papers with high grade quality paper that can be used in newspapers and magazines. Recycling paper products uses 60% less energy than making it from raw materials.

PLASTIC RECYCLING 101

The Trash to Cash Recycling Market has collected 501, 513.79 kg of plastics and diverted more than 430,328.74 kg of plastics taken from landfills. Recycling plastics conserves non-renewable fossil fuels as plastic production uses 8% of the world's oil production. It also reduces the amounts of solid waste going to landfills, and emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and sulphur oxide.

TECHIE TRASH

A total of 266,959.53 kg was collected in the last five years. Through its partnership with ISWM environcycle, SM helps provide e-waste solutions.

GLASSES, TINS & CANS

Trash for Cash has collected 38,194.31 kg glasses, tins and cans from environmentally conscious shoppers. Recycling glass produces 40% less energy than manufacturing it from new. Used aluminum cans can be recycled back on the grocery shelf as a new can in as little as 60 days.

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Cocoon features celebs' unique weekend homes

IT'S THE MOST popular issue of Cocoon, featuring weekend homes and stories of people who have individually designed their homes according to their passions and values.

Editor-in-chief Thelma San Juan writes: "People lead hurried, but productive lives during the week; they feel they deserve liberation, no matter how brief, in the weekend."

The issue offers a variety of unique homes. There's designer Pitoy Moreno Ong's Hanuphia beach house; Derek Ramsay's spacious yet cozy cocoon in Tagaytay which he shares with his family; National Artist Abdulmari Imao's home, gallery and garden in Adis, Baguio; and Claude and Maryannes Tayag's Baler Dutung-to-Angeles, Pampanga.

More and more a weekend home is a stand-have and with this comes a laid-back and more relaxed lifestyle, we look forward to those days to rest our weary souls.

Also's Farm in Magalang, Pam-

EXECUTIVE 02

DEREK Ramsay in his family's new cocoon in Tagaytay, which is both a home for the family and spa.

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPH BY ED HERON

PUGAD BARDY BY FR. JUGGS

DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE-MOTS BY ELIZABETH HOWARD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RUBE MACHINE BY DAVE ABERRA

SEIN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TUNDRA BY CHIP DUNHAM

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

TODAY'S CHILD Born on this day, you have a strong physical presence. People notice when you enter a room. And you often like to take front stage themselves. You have firm opinions. You have no problem making your views known. Tolerance and reading people are also a hallmark of your character. You can spot a phony a mile away. You are also gifted with the ability to see beyond the surface in order to learn something valuable. Celebrities born on this day include Michael Jackson, Elizabeth Taylor, Mariah Carey, Ellen DeGeneres, actor Idris Elba and actress Kate Winslet.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Be very careful today. Power struggles with authority figures are almost unavoidable. Try to remain calm and collected. Don't let emotions get the best of you. You will not be engaged because you're determined to hold what you're holding for.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You are motivated to do your best to live the same kind of lavish lifestyle as someone today. You will not be engaged because you're determined to hold what you're holding for.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Difficult to grasp decisions and recent events today. Don't let emotions get the best of you. You will be engaged because you're determined to hold what you're holding for.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is a good day to take care of business. Don't let emotions get the best of you. You will be engaged because you're determined to hold what you're holding for.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Avoid overly complex the problem, religion and social issues today because they will only cause confusion and ego problems. People are about to do something out there today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) This is a good day to discuss how to make something, especially an inheritance or disputed shared property. Everyone does not appreciate how another day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Keep things light with friends and partners today. People are actually looking for a fight. Why make yourself available separately?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Avoid certain time-wasting and problem about how to resolve things at work or how to introduce others. Others are not interested! They will be a challenge to disagree with them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Laziness is an in your dealings with children today. It's best to work on fact-finding and simply encourage collection. What's the point of this?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Family squabbles are rife here today. Keep moving. Pay ahead of time, avoid money problems with family members, especially parents. Indulge yourself tonight to make reports at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Emotional issues with a complex grandparent willing to others today. Try to listen to support it. Listen up!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Important short encounters, meetings, matters with how to meet your personal commitments today. Disturbers and more to do. Less flexibility. Try to participate.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	9	2	5	3	6	1	8	7
8	6	7	1	4	9	2	5	3
5	3	1	8	7	2	9	4	6
2	5	8	9	6	1	7	3	4
3	7	4	2	8	5	6	1	9
9	1	6	7	5	3	4	2	8
1	8	5	6	9	4	3	7	2
6	4	3	3	2	7	8	9	1
7	2	9	4	1	8	5	6	3

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Taylor

				1				
			5		7			
		3				6		
		8		9		5		
	1	7				9	6	
6	5	9		4		3	8	1
		1				8		
	8	2	9		1	7	3	
7	4			8			9	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLAUDE Tayag's home in Pampanga

JAMES Cocoon in his Laguna home

ENTRANCE TO Pulo and The Deans's home and restaurant

Cocoon features celebs' unique weekend homes

JAIME CHUA'S garden and weekend home in Cebu

From page E1

pongs to an hour and a half away from Manila and offers a variety of massage treatments that help calm stressed-out souls. It's also a perfect stopover when traveling elsewhere in the north.

Read about garden- and weekend home developers and what to look for when buying property to build your weekend home, but your copy today. Cocoon is available at all leading newsstands and bookstores nationwide.

WYNN WYNN Dog on the cover of Cocoon's latest issue

WYNN WYNN Dog's dining table in Batangas speaks of rustic elegance.

Why the Mediterranean diet is good for your health—and the environment

PEOPLE who wish to eat healthy should consider the Mediterranean diet, according to a report released on Earth Day.

The report "Eating Planet," released by the Health Center for Food and Nutrition (HCFN) and published in collaboration with Wordwatch Institute, unanimously recommended the Mediterranean way to populations in developing countries—and that would include the Philippines.

The report said the Mediterranean diet not only had high nutritional value, but also contributed in preserving the environment. It pointed out that food items recommended by nutritionists to be eaten more often—fruits, vegetables, bread, rice, pasta and legumes—had a lower impact on the environment. These items are the mainstay of the Mediterranean diet.

The report noted that, in developing countries, rising average incomes were affecting dietary choices. In view of this, it stressed that "it is urgent not to promote access to and education about healthy foods like fruits and vegetables before bad eating habits develop into deep-rooted cultural practices."

Proper nutrition, the report said, should be assured for infants and children to "greatly improve overall health later in life." A balanced diet, coupled with an active lifestyle, could minimize the risks of overweight, obesity, tumors, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and metabolic syndrome, the report said.

The report also said governments should address the lack of transparency and responsibility in the commercial exchange of food around the world to improve universal access to food. "This means, for instance, ensuring that production of crops to be used in biofuels does not interfere with the cultivation of crops for food," it said.

The report emphasized, "The food system must encourage 'sustainable well-being,' as the idea that people's economic well-being should not be achieved at the expense of the happiness or prosperity of future generations."

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bohlen

Realistic food prices

To ensure sufficient food supplies, "Eating Planet" said agriculture should remain a viable and sustainable source of livelihood. Farmers should be able to ask realistic prices for their products.

It said, "In many countries, food prices are kept artificially low because they do not take into account the environmental impacts of producing food, the high medical costs associated with long-term unhealthy eating habits, the costs required to pay farmers and farm workers a decent living wage plus benefits, and the billions of dollars in government subsidies that farmers receive to grow certain commodities.

"If farmers would charge real prices for the food they grow, consumers, especially on wealthy, consumerist, would reconsider the impacts of their various food choices."

The report said some 30 percent of food was wasted worldwide, while one billion people went to bed hungry each night and another one billion suffered from health problems related to obesity. Agriculture contributed one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions that were causing global warming or the rise in average temperatures.

"Eating Planet" is a collaboration between HCFN and Worldwatch Institute's Nourishing the Planet project, an evaluation of environmentally sustainable solutions to alleviate hunger and poverty. It will be available for purchase on Amazon and iTunes starting tomorrow, April 26. For more details and updates, visit www.healthcfn.com/en.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mercedes and Sgt. Esguerra Sts., 1204 Makati City; fax 897-9784; or e-mail lbohlen@inquirer.com.ph

46 years of
Quality, Value and
Diversity

太平

TAI PING

RUGS AND CARPETS

- World renowned custom made hand tufted rugs and carpets.
- A variety of yarn such as 100% virgin wool, silk, viscose and jute.
- Unlimited colors, designs, shapes and sizes.
- Excellent quality and fine craftsmanship.

Distributed by
LFEC
UNIVERSAL FAR EAST CORPORATION
Showrooms:

PHOEBELA Barranda, and Marcus Steve Wisniewski, Lisa Sarda Cuenca, Andrej Wisniewski, Junia Aquino

ARIEL Lucindo, Miguel Pastor, Noel Marquez, Dee Chan

AC DCAMPO, Mary Somoza, Aimee San Diego

LEE LY, Yevette de Leon, Tina Cuenca, Ching Cruz

BIKINI HUNT hop Karen Pascual (second from left) with Marissa Reyes, Mariele Alberto, Evelyng Dee and Joseph Marco

BIKINI Janine, Karen Panizales, Patty Grandidge, Jan Herrera, Bobbie Parsons, Raja Laurel, Phoemela Barranda, Bobbi Cummins

BIKINI and Vince Alabanan, Pepito Albert, Kaye and Rep. Freddie Tinga

APPLES Alberto, Lubi Jalosjos, Mitzi Manampat, Toby Tiangco

Toy party for a birthday bash; Coca-cola, Tupperware mark milestones

RUSTAM'S Superwoman Inc. president Bessie Tantoco, Michael Bargas, PCGC Commissioner Andy Bautista

MODELS, TV PERSONALITIES and dash of the social set came in full force to Karen Pascual Ocw on another round of fun-raising life. dublings.

The Special Exhibition Hall of the newly opened Mind Museum in Fort Bonifacio Taguig was packed with toys—100 toys—for a totally fun happening meant to "every kid at heart," said the celebrants.

From toy cars in action figures, boomerang rubber ducks and stuffed animals, toys cheerfully adorned the place. My pairing: pa, Lisa Ilarde Carmona told me, "I really feel like a kid again."

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Arcanche
Photos by Alex Van Hagen
powered by nissan March

The ne ounding walls were transformed into dynamic viewing screens playing visuals from epic runway shows and documentaries featuring the world's most famous fashion icons.

The stunning setup was jointly conceived by Jodie Agulto of Saga Events, Marvin Bermudez of Stage Masters and Lawrence Guerrero of SSI Lighting. Amazing music mixes were by Ava Rimbawa.

It was really a time to throw all our inhibitions away and bring out that playful side in teens, pabangpo, thanks to the master publicist and our Toy King of the Night, Kenny, extraordinaire.

Coca-Cola as well as Belvedere Premium Vodka provided endless flow of drinks. Glee provided the excellent to-die-for dinner, pabangpo.

Geisha opens in style

Geisha, the premium Japanese restaurant, has opened at the new Bonifacio High Street Central.

For the launch, there was an extra dash of chivalrous—gorgeous models tossing dramatically around the room in an all-black Kimono-themed collection by designer Kim Kim of the Cadenza Label.

Glitzing on an 8-inch platform "geta" sandals, the models carried Japanese umbrellas and fans as props, showing us "the modern day Geishas." Hints of Yun-Japanese in-

HIKO Rosal, Tristan Cuyco, Randy Ortiz, Laureen and Vince Uy, Raymond Gutierrez, Bianca Valera

HANETTE Maribel Po, Jan de Leon, Audrey Zubiri, Tania and Bianca Motaris, Ayo Mujadi

ARMAN "Cubey" Sison of the Coca-Cola Philippines campaign enjoys the concert.

CRAIG David

SARAH Geronimo

JUAN Lee, Rhian Ramos and IKE Montero

NICOLE Wisenhaus, Bubbie Tiangco, Kit Lim, Grace Baja

going music festival, pabangpo.

"The Coca-Cola Concert ng Bayan' is our gift to the Filipino teens whose positive spirit, refreshing creativity and passion for happiness have always been indestructible," said Guillermo Aguado, president and general manager of Coca-Cola Philippines.

"The last 100 years would not have been a success if not for the Filipinos who made Coca-Cola part of their everyday lives."

Some 20 bands and world-class artists performed.

TV hosts Rabi Dimaraga, Jose Mendiola and Wally Bayola, Wowowee VJ 93.1 DJ Alvaro Guillaroza and MTV VJs Mike Salviejo, Joyce Pring, Diane Gal-Pac and Bianca Bangar gave tons of Coca-Cola products and other premium items in raffle winners.

The concert signaled the start of a summer filled with more happy surprises as the 100th year celebrations of Coca-Cola gets to a whole new high.

Join www.facebook.com/pressthephappiness, www.coca-cola.com.ph, or @Coke_HappyPress on Twitter's.

Tupperware marks 20th year

Tupperware unveiled its new campaign for 2011, "Forever Loves...Due as a Time," dublings.

"As we begin our journey toward our 20th year in the Philippines, Tupperware Brands has become a globally trusted multilevel through a campaign that truly empowers Filipinos to aspire for better lives," said Perry Mogar, charming president and managing director of Tupperware Brands Philippines, no less, dublings.

The company announced its partnership with World Vision and sponsoring the education of 100 children through its "Share the Love" promo.

"For every Tupperware Brands bought, the company will give a portion of the sales to the Share the Love Fund, to be donated to World Vision," said Perry World Vision executive director for public engagement Jun Undurraga. "Tupperware has raised funds for the past 10 kids and "hopes our customers to support the remaining 42 through this promo."

Aside the launch, pabangpo, the Manduluyong Children's Choir gave an awesome rendition of "Bonus Ball." There was also a brilliant performance by Senior child member Antonia Pascualao Nuno "The Queen of Mean" production at Resorts World.

Here's to another fruitful year for Tupperware Brands. We commend it for its commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of Filipinos, pabangpo!

SAMSON'S Kim Gan, chef Tan Hiun, Geisha owner Michael Bargas, Nanami Bargas, Hiroko Hirayama, chef Ramon Antonio

SEN. ALAN Peter Cayetano, Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano, Jinna Calchan, Sari Yap

TUPPERWARE execs Col Sorza, Miss Bitz and Charmaine Abad

TUPPERWARE Brands president and managing director Perry Mogar and World Vision executive director for Jun Undurraga

TUPPERWARE Brands president and managing director Perry Mogar and World Vision executive director for public engagement Jun Undurraga

GADGETS Gallery

ASUS launches new router

Stylish high-gain multi-SSID device expands connectivity with improved functionality; dedicated repeater mode, and powerful 3dBi transmission

ASUS RT-N18+ Black Diamond is a new smart option for consumers looking for a stylish and capable networking companion. Now 600Mbps capable, it offers greater flexibility in establishing connection networks, while universal repeater mode works alongside existing wireless routers to extend coverage.

Like its sister, RT-N18+ Black Diamond boasts a powerful 3dBi antenna, and offers users the ease of ASUS QIS two-minute hassle-free setup.

Up to four wireless SSIDs can be created at once via the RT-N18+ Black Diamond, with administrators able to allocate different access privileges and pre-set bandwidth quotas for each. Whether for hosting guests at home or trainees at an office environment, this allows users greater flexibility and security in managing secure computer networking environments, as passwords no longer need to be shared and printer remains better protected.

With the RT-N18+ Black Diamond's universal repeater functionality users can extend Wi-Fi coverage across larger areas in conjunction with their existing wireless networking hardware. The feature offers a bi-directional relationship between the router and other wireless devices, which further boosts performance and overcomes obstacles with greater ease. Unlike wireless extenders, which suffer from a much shorter range, the RT-N18+ Black Diamond can easily sustain a connection to devices as far as 200m away.

The exclusive ASUS QIS hardware interface allows network setup in less than two minutes and as few as five mouse clicks. Users do not need to possess a complicated manual. In mind, once the RT-N18+ Black Diamond has been powered up and connected to the PC an wireless setup will occur, users need only to open their browsers of choice and the QIS install will load automatically over the quick setup process. ASUS QIS supports all major operating systems.

The RT-N18+ Black Diamond via C-interface router is now locally available with an SRP of P1,990 or 62$ (exception of taxes and authorized dealers.

Summer Gaming with Alcatel Glory 918N from Sun's Best Value Plans!

Back when Pac-Man was still a hit, devotees of gamers would have to go to the nearest arcade center with 50 kilograms of coins in their pockets and wait in line for their daily fix of pellet-eating entertainment. Fast-forward to 2012, and we have the Alcatel Glory 918N, enabling you to get your gaming fix wherever you are, all in a sweet package.

Currently the fastest growing of the World's top 10 Mobile Phone Manufacturers, Alcatel introduces the Alcatel Glory 918N. This great handset is packed with dual-SIM capabilities, a 3 megapixel camera, and is Wi-Fi and 3g enabled. What's more is the Alcatel Glory 918N has an Android 2.3 Gingerbread operating system - allowing you to download from Android Market's immense selection of games! With casual games like Angry Birds: Space and Fruit Ninja, to hardcore, time-consuming ones like Dark Legends, you can be sure that your daily commute or lull summer days will never be boring again.

The Alcatel Glory boasts a 3.2 inch, 320x480 resolution touchscreen - enough to experience all the nitty-gritty of your favorite Android game. The phone's backside is also equipped with rubber surface, ensuring that your grip will stay firm even during the most intense gaming sessions. Just beware of those games that make you want to throw your phone to the wall, though - wall repairs are pretty expensive.

This summer, enjoy playing games on your own Alcatel Glory 918N when you avail of Sun Cellular's Plan 350 - for a P500 initial cash-out, and for ONLY P350 per month, you get unlimited Sun calls and texts, plus 250 texts to other networks! The Alcatel Glory 918N is also available with Sun Cellular's Plan 450 with absolutely zero cash out and comes with unlimited Sun calls and texts, 250 texts to other networks AND an extra P100 value which may be used for 20 hours of mobile internet, IDD calls and ISMS with special rates or other services.

Cyber-attacks more likely for small and medium firms

"To protect their information, SMBs in the Philippines could take simple initiatives such as educating their employees and adopting best practice processes and technologies that can significantly strengthen their cyber-security measures"

A recent small and medium enterprise survey aims to raise the benefit of going digital and having an online presence, data security is often overlooked.

Symantec Corp.'s recently conducted 2011 SMB Threat Assessment poll revealed that while small- and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) are aware that there is such a thing as "cyber-attacks," very few realize the magnitude of the repercussions to their businesses, while about double to even action to protect big their data.

Symantec commissioned Applied Research to conduct a telephone survey of 1,000 organizations worldwide in September last year to find out how many businesses are dealt with cyber-attacks, and if they are taking steps after being victimized.

In an Ultrabook category, Dell XPS 13 weighs only 2.99 lbs (1.36kg) and is powered by a 13.3-inch body with a full HD touch display. Dell was able to accomplish fitting of a 13-inch display by removing the bezel, thus making the Gorilla glass screen bring the edges and allowing for a compact and small laptop but still with a bigger screen to enjoy.

As an Ultrabook, Dell XPS 13 is actually thin with body measurements of only 0.24-0.71 inch/6-18mm.

As an Ultrabook, Dell XPS 13 has a top metallic chassis, but underneath is a carbon fiber base, rendering the laptop extra-more durability and strength. The keyboard is full-size and backlit as well. In addition, battery life is pegged at 9 hours.

Dell XPS 13 is one of the first systems with Intel Smart Connect Technology, which keeps content continuously updated. A solid-state drive and Intel Rapid Start Technology allow the Dell XPS 13 to wake in seconds providing almost instant access, saving time and battery life.

"We're seeing strong customer and business demand for the new Dell XPS 13 ecosystem that is unlike anything else on the market today," said Chairman Jeffrey Puja, Dell Philippines country manager. "The XPS 13 demands attention, crossing the chasm between work and play, pushing powerful technology into a small, portable package and delivering enterprise-friendly protection and security. It's the ultimate machine."

Underscoring its business-ready features, Alice Hidalgo, product manager of Dell Philippines said, "The uncompromising Dell XPS 13 offers professionals the power to connect, collaborate and innovate with unique features and services like Dell Precision and Vostro Platform Module that satisfy the needs of enterprise IT departments."

The new DELL XPS 13 retails at P49,596 for the XPS 13 with Intel Core i5 and 128 GB SSD; P71,490 for the XPS 13 with Intel Core i5 Processor and 256 GB SSD. - Text and photo by Eugene Atanacio

Dell joins "Ultrabook" bandwagon

DELL, a leading PC brand, has finally joined the ultrabook bandwagon with the launch of Dell XPS 13. The ultrabook comes with an impressive design to every detail. Dell Design is a clearly high-end material such as carbon fiber, Corning Gorilla glass sport-brain metallic top cover.

Environment-themed digital artwork contest until May 22

TO DEFACRITE environmental awareness among its customers, Power Mac Center (PMC), a chain of retail shops and service providers of Apple products and premium accessories in the country, joined with event Earth Day celebrations with the launch of its digital artwork contest entitled Green Canvas, expressing the message: Frame a picture. Help the planet. Spread the word.

All Philippine-based graphic designers are invited to participate by submitting original environment-themed artworks in digital format starting on Earth Day, April 22, until May 22, 2012.

The best entry wins a 16GB iPad 2, Targus plus one and 5,000 Power Mac Center Gift Card. Entries must be sent via email at marketing@powermaccenter.com.ph.

Said Jose Alvarez, marketing manager of Power Mac Center, "In the same way that we love having creativity through our products and services, we invite our customers to join us in coming up with artistic ways to spread awareness on environmental concerns. This Earth Day initiative also reaffirms our solidarity with over 175 countries that celebrate Earth Day each year."

For more details plus particulars, visit Power Mac Center's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PowerMacCenter or follow its Twitter account at @PowerMacCenter.

Acer introduces upgraded 10.1" tablet

WHEN last year Acer introduced its first-ever 10.1-inch Android tablet device, the Iconia Tab A500, users marveled at its style, power, and speed.

This year, the tech pioneer is launching something even sleeker, smarter, and better (lighter on the budget...too.

Introducing the new Iconia Tab A200, the tech pioneer's latest 10.1-inch Android tablet, packed with the latest-generation MEDIATEK Tegra™ 250 dual-core CPU, the updated Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich operating system, a full range of connectivity options, essential 3MP pixels, and an immersive entry-level price tag.

Designed as an ultra-portable infotainer hub for all kinds of gaming, entertainment, productivity, and social networking needs, the Acer Iconia Tab A200 delivers high performance, full-function mobile device to a value that ensures unmatched by other tablets in its class.

The tablet is obvious right out of the box. Simple, elegant, and incredibly easy to hold, the Acer Iconia Tab A200 is wrapped in a thin titanium gray cover with a subtly textured finish. This frames a 10.1-inch WXGA high-definition screen, which here employs advanced IPS (in-plane switching) display technologies: crystal-clear 1280 by 800 graphic display resolution, wide viewing angles, and capacitive multi-touchscreen technology (which can respond to up to ten fingers).

A front-facing camera, 1MP HD and micro-HDMI ports, a micro-SD slot, a 3.5mm audio jack, stereo speakers, volume keys, and a sensitive lock sound out the rich feature set of the tablet's compact chassis.

Acer Iconia Tab A200 also includes the world's first mobile super chip for NVIDIA® Tegra® 250, with a dual-core 1GHz Cortex-A9 CPU. An ultra-low power GeForce graphics processing unit...a 1.080p video playback processor; and 1GB of DDR2 RAM.

Meanwhile, a built-in motion detection system—consisting of a 6-axis gyroscope and an accelerometer guarantees seamless interaction. These hardware tech spice come to life as users bring out the tablet for extreme multitasking, non-stop HD entertainment, and intense 3D gaming—all on demand.

Other features including productivity and photos, Acer Iconia Tab A200 comes with a 1.3-Mega-pixel Polarizer (1.0-Mega-pixel Polarizer (1.0-Mega-pixel battery that can last up to 8 hours of continuous playback and approximately 400 hours of standby time.

Known for breaking the barriers between people and technology, Acer also added the latest breakthroughs in software to their Iconia Tab A200. The Acer Shell 3.1 user interface and Acer Ring app-switch together to deliver an intuitive, one-to-one tablet experience. There's also the DLNA-enabled Acer cloud: wireless multimedia sharing solution as well as the popular Acer Social logger app, which delivers and displays loads of content from Facebook and Twitter in one visually impressive portal.

Logging it all off is the powerful Android platform by Google. Acer Iconia Tab A200, which is available in 8 GB and 16 GB models, comes with a free upgrade to the latest version of Android called Ice Cream Sandwich (ICS).

Included in ICS is a set of key features and capabilities, such as a customizable five-page home screen, resizable widgets, a voice-activated search and input engine, one-touch access to email, thumbnails, IM messaging, and a faster Web browser.

The system also boasts of redesigned camera and gallery apps, building on-and adding to the features users love the most about Android-powered tablets. With ICS, the Acer Iconia Tab A200 is now able to perform image-enhanced panning, burst photo sharing, live video graphic effects, and powerful photo editing.

Like other Android devices, the Acer Iconia Tab A200 has a collection of built-in apps such as Picnic for Gmail, YouTube, Search, Books, Twitter, Google Maps, and Documents To Go (an office productivity suite).

The Amazon MP3 Download app, Sound-Hound music discovery engine, and AUPEO personalized Internet radio are also included to delight all kinds of music lovers and audiophiles, while electronic reading apps like Zinio (for magazines) and Kobo (for books) cater to those who love to read. At times, users can discover and download even more apps from the hugely popular Android Market.

Thanks to Acer Iconia Tab A200's full range of connectivity options, the end-user, the item of the Web is no more than a tap of the finger away. The tablet's integrated Wi-Fi (802.11 b/g/n), 3DN, and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR technologies meet the latest standards in wireless connectivity and make Web browsing a simple, seamless, and speedy experience.

The arrival of the Acer Iconia Tab A200 marks another step forward for Acer's expanding line of Android tablet devices. It represents a new era in which users, when it comes to the Acer Iconia Tab A200 all the features, enhancements, and updates that they need, and more.

Easy portable power charger by Genius

ARE you looking for a solution so that your smart phone or tablet lasts longer than it does? Here's a solution to eliminate your frustration. Genius presents its latest product, the ECO-a800 Universal Power Pack, which can charge your smartphone or tablet even when you're using it.

You can now use your smartphone or tablet without any worry about the battery life because ECO-a800 has 6800mAh capacity that extends the battery life of these products. It even has two (2) USB 2.0 ports to charge two different gadgets at the same time. The dock black cover is perfectly suitable with your gadget.

Other features of the ECO-a800 are: 6800mAh battery capacity; 5V/1A for smart phone and 5V/2.1A for tablet usage; LED indicator for battery capacity, an elegant dark black outline, and easy connection with a smartphone or tablet.

The ECO-a800 sells at P4,490. Genius is distributed in the Philippines by MDI-ECS. For more product information, please contact marketing@mdi.com.ph or 890-1181.

'Fanless' computer power supply introduced

By Marker Salazar

COOLER Master recently unveiled its newest power supply product, Silent Pro Hybrid Series equipped with fully modular cables, customized control of power supply and known fans, a noise-free operation mode, and a 5.25-inch drive bay for controller module.

Cooler Master is known to for manufacturing chassis, thermal solution, peripheral, and accessory. Silent Pro Hybrid includes the features full control over silent management with fully modular cables, over 90 percent efficiency with 80Plus Gold Certification, noise-free operation, and other value-added features that ensure these users get the most out of their purchase.

With a power supply component 7% "less power part and included 5.25-inch drive bay has controller module, the Silent Pro Hybrid Series removes the middleman by taking an unnecessary load off of the motherboard. This direct connection between power supply and fan controller provides the user with immediate on-the-fly control over the 135mm Super Silent Hydraulic Bearings power supply fan and up to 8 other system fans. The power and system fan speeds are adjusted independently via two dials. Users may determine the level of control they would like to wield by switching between automatic and manual modes for the power supply fan.

The first to offer a "fanless" mode, the Silent Pro Hybrid series seeks to eliminate unwanted fan noise. The power supply fan can be completely turned off to essentially operate as if it were fanless. This mode persists until loads become greater than 200W. At this point, a safe mode will activate the fan and cool according to the level of the load.

This individualized approach provides the entire management of cables to open the door for a professional cable routing look with less overall effort. Maintenance and upgrades on the main power supply unit become extremely efficient and effective.

Upgrade worries by simply detaching all cables from the power supply and replace with another, more powerful, unit in the Silent Pro Hybrid Series. All of this is done without disconnecting cables from the system itself, as component can be unhooked up and running in a matter of seconds.

Cooler Master's customer relationship line-up includes best risks and first, chassis, power supplies, function panels and accessories. Cooler Master has its headquarters in Taipei, Taiwan, with global branch offices located in Europe, America and Asia Pacific.

Nokia partners with Globe as exclusive carrier of Lumia 800 smartphone

By Joel Nigos

GLOBE Telecom announced that it is the exclusive Philippine carrier of Nokia Lumia 800, Nokia's latest smartphone device that runs on the Windows platform featuring Internet Explorer 9, free maps and voice-guided navigation services, and low image and file storage.

Globe subscribers can avail of the Nokia Lumia 800 for only P1,499 a month (with Globe Unlimited Combo Plan 999), cash out of P23,000 via 6 percent 24-months installment payment with a credit card), complete with unlimited mobile browsing and the most affordable call and text rates than are chargeable monthly rates includes one Studio from any of the following: free 10 minutes calls and 200 texts to Globe/TM and 5 minutes calls and 25 texts to other networks, free 20 minutes international calls and 10 international texts to 10 destinations, and free unlimited call and text to one Globe/TM number).

Nokia Lumia 800 is part of Nokia's latest portfolio of smartphones, boasting a 16GB memory + 8GB in SkyDrive, 3.7 AMOLED clear Mark display, 8MP auto-focus camera with HD video recording, curving 4G Gorilla glass screen and Carl Zeiss lens, and comes in white and black colors.

Pre-orders begin last March 26, 2012 via www.globe.com.ph/celebrate. New subscribers can call the Globe sales hotline via toll-free number 730-1000 or visit www.globe.com.ph/totalaccess to place their orders. For Platinum subscribers, they can get in touch with their relationship managers for reservations. Regular selling in Globe stores nationwide will be available thereafter. Target: last April 15.

XPIXMA Quality. Promised.

Canon

Imprint with these proprietary PIXMA technologies

FINE

Details are sharp, gradation is smooth, and precision is exceptional. Allows resolutions up to 9600dpi, with microscopic ink droplets as small as 2pl!

Chromalife100

Canon's proprietary technology that lets photos last up to 100 years*using Canon genuine inks and papers!

Full HD Movie Print

Fun Filter Effect

Visit your nearest IT dealer or www.canon.com.ph or call 8948000

Join us in Facebook to get the latest news & alerts from Canon PIXMA. www.facebook.com/canonpixmas.ph

Canon PIXMA introduces new inkjet printer range for the home office

Canon Marketing Philippines Asst. Director for Consumer Solutions Marketing Rochelle Tantiado discusses the features of the new Canon PIXMA printers.

Canon PIXMA Ink Efficient E500. Print up to 1,200 pages per cartridge set.

Canon PIXMA MG5321

Canon PIXMA MX511

Canon PIXMA iP4970 Pro

Canon Marketing Philippines President & CEO Ms. Alice Ong

Canon Marketing Philippines' Marketing Communications Asst. Manager Jeffrey Ang demonstrates photo printing wirelessly using a tablet & Canon PIXMA wifi printer.

High Yield, Low Cost

Ink cartridges need to run out at the most inopportune times, frustrating users in the middle of a large print job. E-counter this, PIXMA E500 makes use of a dedicated high-capacity black ink cartridge that can produce up to 1,200 pages per cartridge set. This dramatically reduces the amount of times a user has to replace black ink cartridge for the same amount of work.

Mobile Printing

Mobile printing is a feature offered by the PIXMA MG5321, MG5311, MG5310, and MX511. With mobile printing, users can connect to their printer wirelessly to their camera via Wi-Fi, and print photographs and documents directly from their mobile device. By connecting it to the web flow, it is simply also to download cloud services and others. The same technology behind mobile printing can also allow users to scan photographs/documents directly to their mobile device.

Among the PIXMA MG5321 & MG5310 is loaded flexible in the evolution of Canon's PIXMA Cloud Link, which allows users to use some of the printing features without the use of a PC. By connecting to the Canon Cloud Server, users are able to access their cloud services templates using the 2.5" LCD and print useful customized when required. And by connecting to online photo albums, photos can also be printed in this way.

The PIXMA MG5370 and MG5321 also now support AirPrint wireless printing for iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch. AirPrint allows users to wirelessly print photos, emails, web pages, and other documents without the need for install device drivers, saving time for convenient one-click printing.

Another advantage of the PIXMA MG5370 and MG5321 is the ability to connect online and print without using a desktop PC or Network office. These printers are compatible with Google Cloud Print so users can access this service with their smartphones or laptops while they are on the move and print documents that way. By the time they return to their home office, their documents will be printed and ready for collection. It appears like this will become a home office's time-efficiency and productivity.

Convenient Operation

Navigating menus and operating the controls in a printer can sometimes be tricky, but the PIXMA MG5321 and MG5310 make this extremely user-friendly, simple with the introduction of the Dual-Function Panel. Its buttons control both a 6.2cm Panel light up and display the icons in the specific function, depending on the current function selected. By tilting the buttons so that only the relevant ones appear on your screen, users will not be confused by many controls and it will also reduce the likelihood of pressing any wrong buttons.

The sophisticated features of the MG5370 also made more accessible with the intelligent touch System. It uses an LCD panel and a special touch-sensitive layer to navigate through the various functions. What makes it more intelligent and appealing is that only the relevant touch keys are lit at each menu, so that users are never surrounded with unnecessary options.

Security

Print security is an optional feature that prevents unauthorized material from being accidentally faxed to the wrong recipients. Similar to password confirmations in computer programs, the printer will ask users to enter this for further a second time before transmission. If both numbers do not match, document will cancel the fax and require the user to confirm the number.

Superior Print Quality

To achieve the high level of image quality that users expect of a Canon product, these new printers use FINE technology to create microscopic ink droplets as small as 2pl. Instead of 4 printing high-quality images and photos, FINE is further enhanced by a hybrid system that integrates Five sizes which creates incredibly fine dots and gradations. This also helps to expand the printer's color gamut, which helps to capture stunning deep shading. The combined use of these lead to the printing of high-quality photographs and documents.

Canon's PIXMA G700 is a system that combines the FINE high precision print head, Canon chip ink, and Canon genuine photo paper to deliver beautiful, vibrant photos that last over 100 years, under proper storage conditions. This hybrid is combined with this system have richer colors that are protected from exposure to light, ozone, and high humidity and temperature to preserve their beauty.

Freedom to Create

Creativity-inclined users who like to experiment with their photos can do so with the Full Filter Effects available with the vast range of PIXMA printers. By adding artwork with these filters, users can evolve their photographs with the Miniature Effect or Toy Camera Effect, or make the photos look like they have been taken with a toy camera.

Alternatively, Auto Photo Fix 2 can automatically adjust the tones and color balance of photographs so that they can be more vibrant and visually pleasing.

Video enthusiasts have not found room too for printers traditionally, but Full HD Movie Print has changed that notion. This feature, available in the entire new PIXMA range, allows users to print video content (frames) either as a series of thumbnails on a composite, with all the frames merged together in a stylistic "moving picture" manner.

Canon PIXMA MG5370

Canon PIXMA MG5321

Globe Telecom, Generika Drugstore partners for easy reloading via POS

GLOBE Telecom marks a milestone as it partners with Generika Drugstore, one of the fast-growing drugstore chains selling quality affordable generic medicines in the country, to enable customers who are buying medicines to also reload their Globe or TM prepaid phones via point-of-sale (POS) technology at any Generika check out counters nationwide.

With the tie-up, customers buying medicine will also be able to load Globe or TM prepaid load in any of the check out counters of the 260 branches of Generika Drugstore nationwide. Load bought by customers at the counter will be instantly credited to their Globe or TM accounts upon payment. Customers also get instant confirmation of their transaction via text, with the receipt as additional proof of purchase.

"The partnership marks another first for Globe as we integrate our prepaid mobile reloading into the sales system of a major chain this time, with a fast-growing drugstore chain selling affordable generic medicines in the country," said Ramon Monzon, Consumer Sales Group Head of Globe.

"The partnership with Generika Drugstore for POS reloading further cements our leadership in providing alternative prepaid reloading options to serve as many customers as possible. Last year, it is banner year for us as we had several milestone POS partnerships with a national supermarket chain, premium supermarket chain, and large convenience store chain," Monzon added.

"We are very pleased with this new value-added service that we are offering to our customers in partnership with Globe. One of our primary goals is to provide our customers the opportunity to maximize their visit to our drugstore to be able to buy medicines and even load under one roof," said Julius Bello, Vice President of Generika Franchising Services Corporation.

Generika Drugstore customers can buy a minimum of P15 prepaid load via POS. To purchase prepaid load, a customer simply needs to give his/her mobile number to the cashier at the check out counter and indicate the desired amount of load to buy. The service provides instant virtual credit upon payment. The customers also get instant confirmation of his/her transaction via text, with the receipt as additional proof of purchase.

Globe national commercial accounts head Ching Pascual (center) flanked by Generika Franchising Services Corp. vice president Julius Bello and national head for business development Mike Magpiran give the thumbs up sign during the Globe and Generika Drugstore POS load partnership launch.

Globe has continually improved its product offers for its prepaid subscribers, ending 2011 with over 30-Million subscribers. Globe Prepaid and TM closed the year with total subscribers of 13.3 million and 13.1 million, 12% and 13% higher than 2010 levels, respectively. Smart subscribers by affordable and all-you-can-text and text network roll and text services such as SuperUnlimiTEXT25, SuperextEXT2M, and SuperUnli.

On the other hand, Smart/Sun is poised to open at least 100 additional store outlets/outside over the next eight months, a move that would bring the total number of operational stores to almost 400 by the end of 2012.

HP improves application versatility, productivity, workflow efficiency for large-format customers

HP announced new solutions to its large-format portfolio that allow print service providers (PSPs) to capture a larger share of the digital sign and display market opportunity and grow their businesses with broader application versatility and improved productivity.

The new offerings include:

- HP FB125 White Series Ink and the HP Scitex FB7600/FB7600 White Ink Kit, which deliver high-opacity prints with white inks and rich, saturated colors in a wide range of applications;
- HP SmartStream Production Analyzer for HP Scitex, the comprehensive analysis and operations monitoring software available for large-format PSPs; and
- Comprehensive solutions to improve workflow efficiency and media versatility, including the Hunkeler Automatic Loader and support of 1,200 grams per square meter (gsm) thin media for the HP Scitex FB7600 Industrial Press.

"Our customers' ability to capture high-value pages and grow their businesses using HP's sign and display systems is a core focus at HP," said Armando Pimentel, country general manager, Imaging and Printing Group, HP Philippines.

"PSPs can now pursue new application s knowing that HP digital solutions will deliver versatility, increased efficiency and a clear competitive advantage," Pimentel added.

The new solutions allow HP and its customers to take advantage of the 6.2 billion square meter (sqm) opportunity in the sign and display industry where only 36 percent of materials are now printed digitally.

The biggest potential for growth in this market lies in digitally printed retail and point-of-purchase signage, where 64 percent of pages are printed on analog and screen equipment.

Beyond signage, customized packaging represents another growth opportunity with an addressable market of 6 billion sqm for digital printers.

With the new, high-quality white ink option designed specifically for retail environments and industrial workflow solutions that simplify operations, more PSPs can benefit from digital technology.

Designed to work with HP FB125 printers using latex ink and HP Scitex FB7500 and FB7600 Industrial Presses, new HP FB125 White Series Ink is ideal for a wide range of applications, including backlit signage, window displays and short-run corrugated packaging.

The white ink integrates seamlessly with the full set of process colors to produce durable, rich, saturated color on clear or colored materials.

The ink also help customers reduce labor and process costs compared to analog solutions, and improve efficiency with pre-installed no-CMYK registration.

With the HP Scitex FB7500/FB7600 White Ink Kit, more than 350 existing HP Scitex FB7500 and FB7600 Industrial Press customers can expand their offerings and create business opportunities by offering new, high-value white ink applications.

These presses include screen printhead heaters, which allow the white ink kit to be added without sacrificing process colors or image quality.

"Since installing the HP Scitex FB7500/FB7600 White Ink Kit, we have printed a wide range of unique, high-value applications for our customers, including basic clear self-adhesive vinyl with white underprinting for vehicle graphics to white overprinting for large-format window stickers in black-out prints for double-sided glass applications," said Fabien Kaiser, chief executive officer and co-owner, Chronicler Partner AG.

"With the kit, we can produce exceptional screen printing applications with our digital technology easily, with better quality and the fastest possible turnaround times," Kaiser added.

HP FB125 White Series Ink and the HP Scitex FB7500/FB7600 White Ink Kit are expected to be available in May.

HP SmartStream Production Analyzer for HP Scitex is ideal for medium to large PSPs seeking to improve production efficiency with automated data analysis and 24/7 visibility to gaps and trends in operations.

This easy-to-use, cloud-based tool offers a complete view of the HP solutions in the print shop, including:

- Current and historical reports on presses, operators and shifts, such as ink and media consumption, which identify an operation's strengths and areas for improvement, help decrease waste and compare data with HP industry benchmarks;
- A web-based dashboard view that provides real-time information on what each machine is doing, who is operating it, how it is being utilized and if it is meeting targets and goals; and
- Monitoring of production operations remotely any time, anywhere with a cloud-based tool that is compatible with most mobile devices and has the ability to send event reports by e-mail or SMS.

HP SmartStream Production Analyzer is compatible with HP Scitex T.H350, T.H350, T.H600, T.H600, FB7600, FB7500, HP5000, HP5000 and HP2500 Industrial Printers and Presses that have HP Scitex Print Care installed. It is expected to be available June 15.

HP is expanding its portfolio of comprehensive workflow solutions that increase efficiency for large-format customers from media loading through production and finishing.

The Hunkeler Automatic Loader, a printer solution developed for the HP Scitex FB7600 and FB7500 Industrial Presses, allows high-volume print shops that process long repeating runs to reduce production costs, improve unmanned time and create an automatic working environment with reach-to-reach operation.

With this automatic media loader, PSPs can also improve production flexibility by distributing resources where they are most needed when running long jobs to reduce labor costs.

PSPs with the HP Scitex FB7600 Industrial Press or upgraded HP Scitex FB7500 Industrial Press can now load thin and flexible media down to 130 gsm using the press' three-quarter unmanned loading capability instead of manual media.

The patented vacuum system and six-zone vacuum table found on the presses make this improvement possible. The new capability allows PSPs to further enhance media efficiency, improve productivity and reduce turnaround times.

More information is available at www.hp.com/go/FB7600print12, www.hp.com/go/drupa, and through the HP Graphic Arts Twitter feed at www.twitter.com/hpgraphicarts and YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/hpgraphicarts. Join or follow the conversation using the #HPdrupabuzz.

footloose summer

Sightseers Ford Jong Reyana

Smiling Paoay: More than just heritage

As the summer months officially usher in the peak travel season, destinations all over the country gear up to gain foothold in the competitive tourism market. And who wouldn't? Its welcome tourists, after all, comes naturally for Filipinos.

Among those leading the drive in local tourism is Ilocos Norte. Known by many for Paguelpel, Empire, and enchanting, Ilocos Norte recently revamped its tourism efforts by officially launching a new tourism brand—"Paoay Romantic(ally)".

"This year, we're really excited that the local government of Ilocos Norte has made leaps to broadcast little known, but equally fascinating destinations," says Cesar Cruz, president of Philippine Inter Operators Association (PhilOIA).

The new campaign aims to present the town of Paoay as a viable jump-off point, a gateway to the north and to various destinations.

A rich heritage

Upon arriving in Paoay, tourists will immediately be immersed in the town's quirky history. For starters, tourists can go to the Malacañang of the North, the presidential residence overlooking Paoay Lake. St. Augustine Church, built from coral stones and even pulverized bricks, is unlike any landmark.

The huge buttresses flanking the sides and rear façade make it a fine example of earthquake baroque, an adaptation of the Baroque style to Philippine tectonic conditions. Furthermore, it exhibits elements akin to feminine architecture such as those found in the Temple of Borobudur in Indonesia, thus earning it well-deserved inclusion to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Venturing to neighboring towns, tourists wouldn't find enough historical sites to fill up a few days' worth of travel itinerary. Aside from the popular Marcos Museum, Bilay, cohorts, and Juan Luna Shrine, Ilocos Norte also has a variety of other heritage sites that would keep any history buff delighted.

ST WILLIAMS Cathedral bellower

KAPURPURAWAN Rock formation

Due to the province's storied colonial past, Ilocos Norte is home to a handful of Spanish-era cathedrals. The captaincity of Laoag itself has two of these magnificent structures, including the oldest of the bunch called St. William's Cathedral. One of the biggest cathedrals in the country, this Indian Renaissance-styled cathedral catapulted fame for its peculiar bell tower. Yet tourists enthusiasts, the massive structure stirks a couple of controversies every year, causing locals to consider it as the Philippine version of the Leaning tower of Pisa.

The other church in Laoag of no less a unique history of its own, San Agustin Church (which also houses a convent) functions a 137-meter nave, the longest in the country. Despite surviving two fires, the church remains so remarkably preserved that it was chosen as the venue for Imee Marcos' nuptial, dubbed then as "the wedding of the century."

Coming to the town of Burgos, travelers could spot the Cape Bojeador Lighthouse, an impressive Spanish-era structure set high on Vigia de Nagpatron Hill overlooking the serene Cape Bojeador. The majestic edifice marks the north western-most point of Luzon, where only gallowas used to call by.

Ilocos Norte has such a rich culture and history that extends long before the coming of the Spaniards. The Museo Ilocos Norte in Laoag chronicles these times impressively with exhibits that give visitors a glimpse into the culture that sparked pre-colonial trade with Asian neighbors to the north – artisans forming, clash weaving, pottery making.

express SALE

Hong Kong or Singapore.
What's your cup of tea?

Flights from Clark for only ₱888

Selling Period: April 23 to 25, 2012
Travel Period: June 1 to November 30, 2012

₱888 CLARK to HONG KONG
CLARK to SINGAPORE

₱288 All LUZON destinations to or from MANILA
All domestic destinations to or from CEBU

All rates are stated one way from origin to destination as you cruise. For the complete list of destinations, visit www.airphilexpress.com. *Check local baggage allowance for flights to or from Clark.

15 KG FREE BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

airphil express

CONDITIONS: One-way · Book and Buy · For domestic flights: Exclusive of VAT, Applicable Aviation Security Fee & other surcharges · non-refundable · For international flights: Exclusive of Philippine travel tax, Singapore and Hong Kong airport and travel taxes · Fare conditions apply · Limited seats · Forfeited if not used on flight date shown. For DAR Approved fare and conditions.

visit www.airphilexpress.com

How to save electricity with your air conditioner

Whenever the summer heat hits us, we all could swear that this season is hotter than the previous one. Perhaps so. Like it or not, global warming now is an everyday reality that everyone has to deal with. Saving energy therefore is everyone's responsibility.

You can enjoy the comfort of your air conditioning, conserve electricity, and save money if you do the following:

1. Increase the temperature of your air conditioner temperature. Even a 1-degree higher setting could mean significant savings and you won't even feel it. What we consider as cool temperature in December usually falls in the range of around 22 to 24 degrees. So anything lower (colder) would be an unnecessary waste. Bear in mind that you don't need to be freezing during summer; you just need to be comfortable and survive the heat.

2. You can conserve energy by ensuring the room is properly sealed and by seeing to it that doors and windows fit properly with no visible spaces or leaks on the seals.

3. Shades, curtains, and drapes should windows from the hot sun, which keeps your home cooler. Also, reflective films can be used on windows to screen out rays of the hot sun without reducing the light you receive. As a side benefit, when doors and windows are shut, your AC will operate more efficiently.

4. Ensure you buy a properly sized unit for the area to be cooled and the intended number of persons occupying the room. The wrong size AC will use more electricity and increase your energy bills, have noisy and consume electricity by buying the correct unit.

5. If you are a heavy user, get an inverter type of device. Over a period of time, the inverter air conditioner with a variable-speed compressor will save up to 50 percent of electricity as compared to a conventional fixed-speed air-conditioner. GE's inverter system consumes less than 1w standby, it boasts of stringent toxicity tests vs. 22 potentially harmful materials including the potentially carcinogenic DOP (dioctyl phthalate). This number far exceeds present European standards. It is safe even for young children and pregnant women.

6. Where you install your air conditioner determines how efficient it will be. Locate your unit on the best shaded side of your house. If the AC unit is exposed to sunlight, it has to work very harder & use more energy to cool your home.

7. Regular maintenance will help ensure that your air conditioner operates efficiently. Check the unit's filter or lint every other month by holding it up to a bright light. If you cannot see through, it is time to replace or clean the filter. Also check the owner's guide to find out how to clean the condenser coils and fans on the unit.

8. Perhaps the most important rule is this simplest, most obvious one. Because it may well be the appliance that consumes the most electricity in the household, use your air conditioner only when necessary. For example, if you can get cooler with a fan which uses very less energy or by taking a bath, then do so; the cost to the environment would be much lower.

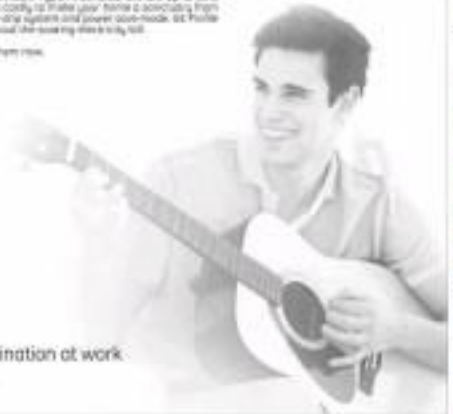
There are just some of the many things you can do to help solve the problem of global warming. Although they seem rather small and insignificant, the effort could snowball if all households observe such energy-saving practices. After all, isn't it hard to imagine that next summer will be hotter than this one?

GE
Profile

13% more energy efficient? Cool.

Summer's one getting hotter. Perfect time for a more energy efficient airconditioner. GE Profile Window Type Airconditioners are up to 13% more energy-efficient – less costly to make your home a sanctuary from the blazing heat. With its no-drip system and power wash mode, GE Profile gives a cool home without the sweating electricity bill.

Can't stand the heat? Get them now.



GE imagination at work

Smiling Paoay: More than heritage

From page G1

blacksmithing, woodcarving, and furniture-making.

Hidden natural treats

Boom Norte's home to vast sun-natural attractions. For the coastal headgear, there's Pagudpud. Situated an hour-and-a-half north of Laoag City, Pagudpud is fast gaining the fancy of beach fronts with its fine white sand and clear blue waters which could rival that of world-famous Boracay.

But while the country's most party-conducive beaches are filled to the brim, Pagudpud's unconscious offers relatively crowd-free beaches even on long weekends.

Eighteen-o'clock is Kapurpurawan rock formation in the town of Burgos for unique chalky limestone cliffs, carved by strong sea winds over the centuries. These wind-blasted formations is a geographer fantasy you'd be hard-pressed to find elsewhere in the country, and many compare it to those found along the coast of Dover, in England.

For those looking for more thrilling engagements, there's the sand dunes of Paoay. Aim of all the Pacific travels desert scenery, these famed dopes have also been action in Mel Gibson's Mad Max movie. Nowadays, the sand dunes form renowned palmer Juan Luna's home province provide a fun play-ground for 4x4 off-roaders and sandboarding enthusiasts.

But sand isn't the only gift of Mother Nature that Boom Norte is currently making use of to attract tourists. Situated in the path of most typhoons, the country's northernmost province also harnesses the power of wind through the Bangui Wind Farm—a testament to the province's support for sustainable resources.

Gateway to the Ilocandia and neighboring provinces

"Boom Norte is a heritage treasure trove," says Cruz. "There are still lots of destinations for us to discover, for tourists, the Ilocandia experience is constantly expanding."

One such expansion is the inclusion of dreamy Batanes in an Boom Norte Cagayan-Batanes adventure package. The intrepid explorer can venture to the otherworldly islands of Batanes for less by travelling first to Boom Norte, then hopping off to Tuguegarao in Cagayan, where a plane whisks one off to Basco in Batanes.

This mix package covering three alluring destinations runs P15,000 which is more economical than the 2-night/3-day package where one flies directly from Manila to Batanes for P20,000.

This is just one of the new tour packages included in "The Philippines is on Sale," one of many things to watch out for during the 23rd Philippine Travel Mart, the biggest annual tourism expo in the country. With the expanded events, the event is to be held at SMX Convention Center on August 10 to 12 this year is set to boost the campaign for sustainable domestic and inbound tourism.

Corregidor's amazing race, and more

RUNNING in Pilo-Long Barracks

80, you've read about Corregidor in your history books during your school days. This island fortress called "The Rock" by the wizards of the Manila Bay is taken part in the fiercest battles of World War II and where capitulation to the Japanese on May 6, 1942 marked the complete conquest of the Philippines.

What is highlighted though in this epoch in history is not the defeat, but the extraordinary valor of the Filipino and American defenders against overwhelming odds.

But if you think it historic island is a mere war Memorial frozen in time, look again. Corregidor is resprudging itself into a new tourist hotspot just outside the doorstep of the big city.

San Cruises Inc. (SCI), the major interisland leisure provider to Corregidor, has been taking the lead in promoting the island as a history and adventure getaway.

Since 1998, SCI has been offering fun-loving travelers, hotel and restaurant services, guided tours around the historic spots, and now, new adventures and recreational facilities to lure the younger generation and those who have only seen the island on postcards.

Inspired by the TV show reality show Amazing Race, one of the former popular activities being offered today, is the Corregidor Adventure Challenge where guests can explore the entire island on foot or by bicycle, test their endurance and strength in the Pilo-Long Barracks, and discover the hidden tunnels and dormitory chairs. The activity tests the participants' sensitivity, planning skills, logic and team-work in winning the race.

And due to its scenic and old world charm, Corregidor has been a destination for photography boot camps, pre-nuptial celebrities, honeymooners, corporate functions, and special events, including ABS-CBN's special coverage for the TV series "The Rock".

Those afraid of heights can get initiated in the 300-meter-long, 45-feet high ROCBot Zipline which is only set starting the all ages.

Guests staying overnight can take a romantic sunset stay at Battery Geraldo, one of the disappearing guns perched on a hill overlooking Mabatos Peninsula and a venue believed to be free of anti-social behavior.

A Malibu Target night tour of sort is a must, as it takes you to its hidden movie, including the 1,800-bed Port Malibu hospital and other vital chambers which became home to the war-time Philippine Commonwealth Republic.

At daytime, view the Malinta Tunnel Light and Guard Shot for a comprehensive story of Battle the War.

Island hopping is another interesting way to see Corregidor from another perspective. The neighboring isles of La Monja, Caballo, and El Fraile (Fort Drum), formed a naval defense system during the American era, and host their own interesting stories to tell.

Intercruises also encouraging hikers to pedal around Corregidor to make it a "Bisaya Island." With only a handful of motor vehicles, all roads in this idyllic isle are virtually bicycle lanes.

Corregidor is also ideal for meditation. Just time to leisurely stop, with its tightly-sealed downhill slopes and dirt trails while passing through key historical hotspots.

As an emerging eco-tourism site, the island has been identified as a bird watching spot because of the varied bird species spotted here due to its serene environs and rich biodiversity, among the species include the White-Collared Kingfishers, Asian Glossy Starlings, Eurasian Tree Sparrows, Blue Rock, and Philippine Cockatoos.

Guests also can also take the island on foot via the "Walking Tours" or choose an all-terrain vehicle (ATV).

Meanwhile, water sports enthusiasts can frolic in the Isarels Beach and paddle to their heart's content with the new kayaks that have been put in place.

As an add-on experience back in Manila, SCI also offers daily shuttle service with free access to entertainment resort in Manila Bay.

San Cruises Inc. has daily packages tours to Corregidor which leaves at 8 a.m. at the SCI booking area. Visit www.corregidorphilippines.com; call San Cruises Corregidor on Facebook or call 527-5555.

Another option would be to travel by land to Bgy. Alas-asin in Mariveles, Bataan for about three hours, then ride a pump boat to the island (fare P200). Upon reaching Corregidor, guests register at the Corregidor Inn under Inc. and secure fee of P150.00) and a rolling cruise about a jeep (P50.00) . Call (091k) 304-5665.

BASTIONS in three dimensions

SPANISH Light House

Go unlimited on Legazpi's adventures and sights

By Bernard L. Supsup

RISEN Cloria Monument in Barangay Ilawod, Legazpi City

Mention Legazpi City and immediately the image of the perfect cone of Mayon Volcano immediately comes to mind. The icon of tourism of the Bicol region for centuries, this legendary volcano towers over this city named after the equally-legendary Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legazpi.

Reputed to be the world's most beautiful peak, it is regarded as among the world's most active volcanoes. Its contour is so enigmatic it lures tourists, photo enthusiasts and plain lifestyle even during its most threatening phase.

But beyond Mayon, Legazpi is a treasure throve of natural wonders which have been literally living under the shadow of this majestic geological monument.

"If typhoons companies have unlimited promos on sun shopping and sells, Legazpi offers unlimited adventure and travel experiences," says Legazpi City Mayor Geraldine Rosal.

As the provincial capital of Albay and regional hub of the Bicolandia, Legazpi offers an eclectic subset life which embraces nature, culture and adventure.

Rosal said that the city council initially adopted the "Legazpi Unlimited" as its tagline, but recently adopted "City of Fun and Adventure" in line with the promotional thrust of the Department of Tourism.

"The lady mayor said that the city is trying to lure visitors for overseas, incentive travel and sports tourism because of the unique mix of natural allure and urban comforts.

Rosal revealed that the city is hosting about 30 national and regional conventions this year, necessitating for the construction of a convention center as per with state's standards.

She added that the on going construction of the Southern Luzon International Airport in nearby Daraga town will further strengthen Legazpi's position as a year-round destination.

A first stop in the city is the mythical Cagsiw Hill which affords guests an unhampered panorama of Mayon on one side and a commanding view of the city on the other.

One of the highest points in the city, Cagsiw Hill is an adventurer site with its zip line, hanging bridge, natural rappelling wall, and canopy walk which can give you a dose of adrenaline rush.

At the hill's middle point is the Japanese Tunnel which was dug as ammunition depot during World War II, while at its base is the Albay Park and Wildlife, the provincial zoo and nature center.

For one also tough is not at Mayon's lava vast for a scenic and physical two-hour ATV ride which will take you to the Mayon Adventure Park, which is literally Asian's throw away from the enigmatic volcano.

For a touch of cosmopolitan life, there is Embassadors, a boutique marina-inspired mall by the bay, a sauntering hub, family recreational space, and adventure eatery called kain one. An adjacent hotel-spa hotel—Ellis Grand makes for an all-under-one-roof experience.

Street souls can glide across the Albay Golf on a zip line, topped from the light-house tower, trade an outdoor stall, go fast driving, or ride the streets aboard a jet ski.

Come chow time, sink your teeth to mouth-watering cuisine at the good old favorite Woman's Restaurant or La Roca Restaurant, which are noted for their home-cooked delights such as Bicol express, laing, pinangat, kinunot, sinaksak other spicy dishes to liven up your dining pleasure.

For home food in a cozy ambiance, Rinal Tilla Café is a must visit for its unique blend Bicol and international cuisine, not to mention very reasonable prices.

For the signature Bicolanos fast casual restaurant, there is Biggy's Diner and Quick and Healthy.

Rosal said that Legazpi will play a vital role in the Albay Culinarta, a culinary tourism program of the provincial government aimed at promoting Albay as a foodie's haven.

Culinarta visitors can take a quick swing at the city's historic spots for a glimpse of the soul of the city—the St. Gregory Cathedral, the City Museum, Camp Elot, Simeon Ola Plaza Heritage Park, Dalisandu Park, the Legazpi Tryknl, and the World War II-Inspired Peace Landing site in Bacacay.

In the evening, Embarcadero and the city's seawall boulevard offers a soothing evening for wandering while being caressed by the crisp sea breeze. The 5-kilometer road is also slated for jogging, biking or brisk walking with its wide sidewalk built for such purposes.

And when it's time to lay your head, you can retire at the classy Avaya Hotel, St. Ilia, on the newly-opened The Oriental Legazpi, perched on a with a commanding view of the city. If on a budget, there is a host of basic yet comfortable accommodation which can take you to dreamland.

For the all-important pasalubong before heading home, lose yourself in exquisite abaca accessories and home furnishings, hand-woven mats, sweet yet delicious, spicy flavorings, cutlery, and pottery at the Healthcorp Center.

And if you can't get enough of the city, Albay's Spanish-era churches, fine sand beaches, enchanting waterfalls, heritage houses, gorgeous caves, and idyllic islands are exact for the taking.

"Even cell phone companies' unlimited promos expire, but Legazpi's offer is simply unlimited," concludes Rosal.

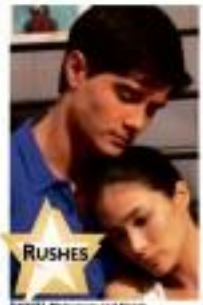
Getting there:

Legazpi can be reached by a 50-minute flight from Manila or Cebu, or a 10-hour land trip via air-conditioned bus. The Philippine National Railways has restored the train service and passengers can relive the nostalgic ride via the iron horse dubbed Bicolano. Limited schedule buses of well-appointed de luxe coaches. The train runs up to Ligao City, and from there, Legazpi City is just a 45-minute bus or jeepney ride away.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Brenda G. Velarde

Zap unwanted hair on BIKINI LINES with LaserLight!



DANIEL Matsunaga and Heart Evangelista: Breakup consequence?

Dubious deals mar 'prestige project'

By the Entertainment Staff

DILOMBAYEN reared it as a Prestige Project.

Regrettably, the high-profile, mega-budget PP was marred by questionable deals that pushed the homes to lawmakers.

According to a source, the chaotic affair led to the departure of several people who worked on PP.

Bosses were reportedly appalled to learn that one Project Proponent was able to buy a house worth millions, the fruit of dubious accounting.

Another was sandwiched for forging checks, blouses, memos.

The bosses have allegedly blacklisted the offenders and sent a copy of the memorandum to a rival company.

Fuzzy-roasted mix

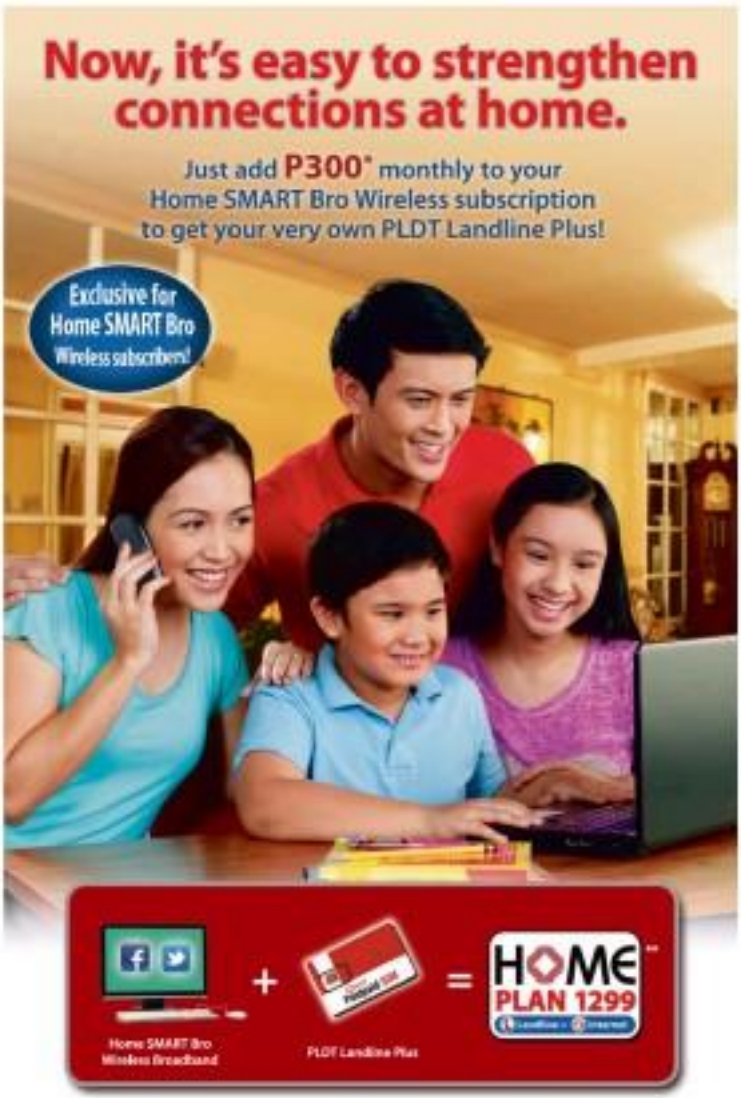
The raging battle between two Noisy Persons in the biz was inevitable, according to their associates.

PSP1 had been trying to contain her resentment over FWG2's shortcomings for so long,—until FWG2 pushed PSP1 over the edge.

The current word war has confirmed that FWG2 is quite the polymath. Endless.

DUBIOUS NE

ABA MINA: "I'm dying inside."



Finally! Your very own PLDT landline at home! So you can enjoy clear calls and the widest coverage in the country. It's the perfect partner to your Home SMART Bro Wireless broadband.

Get connected with the trusted: PLDT landline.
Upgrade now! Visit any PLDT Business Office or Sales Booth. For inquiries, please call 121-526.
HOME

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

For ticket reservations and screening schedule pls. visit: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

GALLERIA

MANILA

METRO EAST

NOVALICHES

FORUM ROBINSONS

BEAT THE LINES
BUY YOUR TICKETS
NOW!

BUY YOUR TICKETS and SNACKS ONLINE!
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

OPENS APRIL 25

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

STA. ROSA

LIPA

DASMARIÑAS

STARMILLS

IMUS

TACLOBAN

ILOCOS NORTE

DUMAGUETE

BACOLOD

ILOILO

CENSAN

ANGELES

CALASIAO

SM CINEMA

www.smcinema.com

Get a FREE MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS keychain

for every three (3) movie ticket purchase using a VISA card at IMAX

Promo duration: April 21 to May 25, 2012

VISA

BIGGEST EVENT THIS SUMMER

only at

ARENA

MAY 21, 2012
8:00PM

Purchase your tickets at www.smtickets.com
Also available at any SM Cinema branch nationwide

IMAX

metro manila

luzon

visayas • mindanao

HOTLINE: 470-22-22 / WEBSITE: www.smtickets.com

VISIT www.smcinema.com AND PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE.
PAYMENT VIA BANK LOANS AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED

OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD AND DRINKS AT ALL SM CINEMA LOBBIES

Dubious deals mar 'prestige project'

From page A1

she reserved to lords, officials' minorities when she fought with Bored Star and Player for Celebrity.

More TWI at the target of PNP2 reason. PNP2 promises to impose sobriety screen regarding PNP's rated affairs.

PNP2 alleges that PNP1 tried to steal Presidential Lessie. PNP2 was bitter about breaking up with PL, who is said to be tireless in the boudoir?

Trash talk

Shows has insider is known for being soft-spoken and gentle. She is everyone's friend in the industry.

Rhetorics were strained, therefore, when G has allegedly shot hidden lungs. As gatecrashing, a relative inside the conference mistake of calling Controversial: Celebrity "Tita."

G was heard snapping, "Don't call her Tita. She's not your aunt. She's really!"

Ironic: G has learned to fight back. She's in downtime, that's for sure.

Late delivery

While rumor is true, Vanishing Star would avoid media medical leaves.

It's known agency insert VE installment any project of note. All of a sudden, there's talk that she's awaiting a visit from the stork.

Actually, VE is not too "insecure" for this kind of notebook. Insiders are concerned... and for good reason. At toward the time the child graduates from college, VE will be a mother of senior citizen.

Pity mother. It, for Bishop#. Or is it Shirley?

Double chin

Another starlet is making like it could without Penny Sin for less gains under the knife to make her chin less pronounced.

Sentient point to two aspects—one, a Rapunzelyn, the other a Kapuso. The Rapunzelyn is universally loathed for her prima donna ways.

The Kapuso is noteworthy in the design of her Cutie Sucker isn't her lapping.

Time to compare old and new photos.

Top of the Talk Shows

For those who missed last weekend's TV gobblers (and why we say instead, it's we are several):

• Ara Mina on Kling Shed and grave vocation charges against bitter Catalan Bryan Thunder (ang gagawin ko. Mahal ko siya, eh. Para kahangan inyang makuman ng Mayon ... Bigod na akong magtatip ng ipadi siya, magpipinsal na siya ng okay ... I'm doing inside ... Sana patawin na lang niya ako. Parang wala akong nagawang maganda para sa kanya." (All a bit [gasps] in love and war.)

• Ara Mina on critics saying that it's just a publicity stunt: "Hindi ko kailangan ng publicity. Why? Hindi ko kailangan ng publicity." (We'll hold our breaths for now.)

• Kim Chiu on working in the coming movie "The Reunion" with Xian Lucas: "Ang sarap ng feeling ... Ang sarap ng mga scenes namin, feel na feel niya akong Jane Lan' anda akong Angelo!"

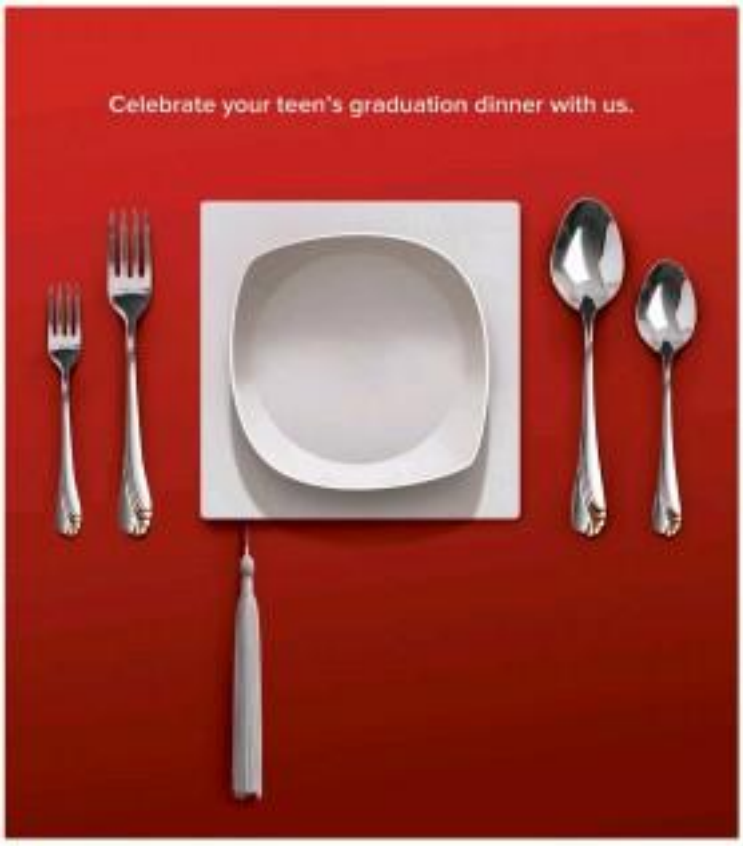
• Gabby Concepcion on not being able to meet daughter Chie Sypin during her recent stay in the Philippines: "Nanalangin ako ng tulong kay KC, pero wrong submarine ang sa Guam pag-uhi ni Chie, she wasn't with Stephen also." (Well, she's not really talking to.)

• Dan Garcia on rumors that director Robet Vidanes coupled from "Showtime" because of him: "Si Direk Robet ang kasinigan ng mga mga ... Hindi kami nagsasama ... nagkataong [illegible] kami, eh. OK kami. Ano ba naman kami naglalaro." (However, among friends OK.)

• Raffy Gutierrez on rumors that she gave birth to twins in 2003, but decided to still conceive due to Indians: "Hindi naman kinaya [illegible] ... Hindi ko naman kaya. Ang mahalaga sa akin ay [illegible] ... Anything is possible, it seems."

• Edward Mallorca on Hour Evangelista breaking up with Jon Gutierrez: "Ang [illegible] ... Ang [illegible] ... Ang [illegible] ...

Celebrate your teen's graduation dinner with us.



A total of 20 winners can get a chance to win a celebratory dinner for the family worth Php 10,000 at Heat, Edsa Shangri-La or Circles, Makati Shangri-La and 30 more winners' at any of these other participating restaurants:

PLDT

TELPAD

HOW TO JOIN:

1. Download the TelPad App through your PLDT Vipplus or www.pldthome.com
2. In the promotion category, click "Get started"
3. Fill out the registration form and submit
4. Keep the Confirmation Code that will appear on your screen.

Get a Telpad now.
Visit www.pldthome.com

HOME

MICHAEL Ealy in "Think Like a Man"

Rom-com ends reign of 'Hunger Games'

LOS ANGELES—Box office competition finally overwhelmed "The Hunger Games" and pushed it to third in ticket sales, ending its four-week streak at No. 1. The romantic comedy "Think Like a Man" topped the charts with $33.0 million in sales over the weekend, while the love story "The Lucky One" finished second with $22.8 million, according to studio estimates.

"Think Like a Man" is based on comedian Steve Harvey's best-selling, nonfiction relationship guide "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man." The movie follows four couples trying to work out various issues and stars Gabrielle Union, Kevin Hart, Michael Ealy, Romany Malco, hip-hop singer Chris Brown and Oscar-nominated actress Taraji P. Henson. Harvey was executive producer and has a small role playing himself. The film cost a modest $12 million to make, and has received positive feedback in previews screenings.

Still, the weekend performance "exceeded everyone's expectations," Audiences gave "Think Like a Man" an "A" grade in a poll conducted by survey firm CinemaScore.

"The Lucky One" tells the story of a US Marine who returns from his third tour of duty in Iraq, convinced that the one thing that kept him safe and alive was a photograph of a beautiful woman he found on the outside of one. It is also based on a book—the 2008 best seller from Nicholas Sparks.

The movie stars Zac Efron and Taylor Schilling and cost about $25 million to produce. Efron's female fan base helped the movie beat forecasts. Fifty-seven percent of moviegoers polled said the actor was their top reason for seeing the film. "The Lucky One" added $5.6 million from nine international markets, bringing its global debut to $16.6 million.

"Hunger Games," the month hit about an oppressive country's televised teen death match, took in an estimated $14.5 million. Global sales for the film have reached $572.7 million since its release.

The weekend's other new movie, nature documentary "Chimpanzee," finished in fourth place with $ 10.2 million. It scored the highest opening among five films released by Walt Disney Co's Disneynature film unit, which makes wildlife movies and supports conservation efforts. The comedy "The Three Stooges" finished fifth with $9.2 million.

The action movie "Battleship" pulled in $26.1 million in its second weekend, and brought its total to $129.6 million.

Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Cristine refuses to apologize

BAFF: Vina Morales and Marc Taylor in "Tales of Money"

DESPITE Ara Mina's troubles on the domestic front, she took the time to thank us for coming to her defense on the Monday column.

Dolly Wood

Dolly Anne Carvajal

She also heard from half-sister Cristine Reyes after we also slapped her with a libel and grave coercion suit.

Ara said that Cristine texted, "gusto ko ka raw kumalma[sic] na ang sa akin" [I don't feel her sincerity. Malaking sa sin. Samantalang ang sa akin, Da. really hurt."

How does that sound feel about thrashing republic?

"Mandirdir si Ma," said Ara. "Sabi niyang pinagbintu niya si Cristine nadito magalit ang daddy niyan. Ayan siguro nag-kalabuang ugali si Cristine. Ask ahong mga kapatid nawala si mahal talaga. Isa mahirap talagang mawawala si Cristine."

What would it take for Ara to forgive her younger sister?

"Pag nawalanhawi kung sagutin sa gitnang mga sa akin at sa ibang tao," she pointed out. "Pag nagbago na sya. Bahala na si Lord. She's always like that sa parang wala siyang nagawang masama at never nagsorry. Right na lang siyempre kasi as if nothing happened. Jack, madaling kumalimot ang pero ko sa sa ito, pero this time sobra na. Di na mahirap ang mga text niya sa akin."

Ara has reached her saturation point. Even as a sister, she can take only so much. Apparently respect is not in Christine's vocabulary.

Ara says that Cristine refers to the entertainment press as "always reporters." What could be cheaper than the feed language Cristine seems to be fluent in? It seems to be her second language. Cristine is earning high on her own hype.

CONTINUE

JOLLIBEE YUMBURGER: THE CHOICE OF TODAY'S DYNAMIC TEENS

There's no stopping today's Pinoy teens from living life to the fullest. Passionate and with an unrelenting thirst for learning, they are not afraid to break out of the mold, pursue their dreams, and make a difference. Carefree and adventurous as they are, they are also definite on the things they want early on and wouldn't settle for second best.

For those discerning Pinoy teens, nothing beats the taste of the country's only longhop saucy burger – the Jollibee Yumburger. Imagine the unparalleled goodness of delicious patty that's made with 100% pure beef complemented by Jollibee's special signature sauce dressing in a delightfully soft bun. Paired with Jolly Crispy Fries and a regular drink, the Yumburger value meal makes for a complete and truly satisfying snack. And since it's available at an Always Affordelicious price of P62, it's no wonder why it has remained, to this day, a huge favorite not just among teens but those who love the simple yet classic longhop saucy taste of the Pinoy burger.

So whether they're hanging out with friends, bonding with their family or simply enjoying their me time as they plot their next big adventure, today's teens know that when it comes to burgers – Jollibee Yumburger is the only choice.

Get your favorite Always Affordelicious Jollibee Yumburger Value Meal for only P62 at all Jollibee outlets nationwide.

*Prices may vary in selected areas

Child protection from hazards of show biz

Today's summit to tackle problems facing children in films, TV, advertising

MTRCB Chair Grace Poe-Llamanzares

By Maricel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) has organized a child summit to tackle issues that affect the welfare of kids in movies and TV shows. It aims to encourage more people to support the protection of children in the entertainment industry.

The summit is scheduled this afternoon at the Malcolm Hall of Mabuhay Palace in Manila, in cooperation with the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Council for Children's Television.

Three categories will be addressed in the summit. "Children working in the entertainment industry, such as those auditioning for roles in movies, TV programs and advertisements, are in the first category," said lawyer Eric Mallonga, who co-chairs the MTRCB's Child Protection Committee with lawyer Nelson del Prado.

The second category is for children who are the subject matter of movies, news coverage and TV programs, Mallonga added. "This includes kids in conflict with the law—those who are stereotyped as criminals (examples of being rehabilitated but went to employ that these kids shouldn't be captioned as evil simply because they are in conflict with the law," Mallonga stressed. "This group includes adopted children. They are often depicted as rebellious and disrespectful of their adoptive parents."

Children as audience are in the last category, Mallonga reported. "We shall propose more classifications to ensure that children's interests are adequately protected." The MTRCB recently revised its classification ratings for TV shows to include "Strong Parental Guidance" or SPG.

Work schedule proposed

The weak schedules of children and requirements imposed by the labor department will also be tackled during the summit, said MTRCB Chair Mary Grace Poe-Llamanzares. She added that representatives from all broadcasting networks would be invited. "We want to know whether cautious are being followed, and whether children are encouraged to save a portion of their earnings," she said.

The summit will include an open discussion with former child actors Alan Seguerra, Billy Meldrick, Roderick Paulate and Rustom Padilla, who will participate in the open discussions.

FORMER child actors Alan Seguerra and Roderick Paulate will participate in the open discussions.

Mariano and Sheryl Cruz, as well as ABS-CBN talents Bobi Domingo and Rayver Cruz. Another highlight will be the presentation of the respective child protection policies of ABS-CBN, GMA 7 and TV5, Llamanzares added.

The event will culminate with a signing ceremonies of endorsement by "to serve as testament to a shared vision for a secure and nurturing environment for our children."

New TV drama series links young leads with a strong psychic bond

AIMEE in two lots, the director is not daunted by challenges.

IF LOOKS like the new teleserye, "Kung Alay'y Isang Sila," is a wholly serious look at the lives of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families, both here and abroad. That's all in the good, because the topic and theme are major components of the whole country's shared existence and troubles today and it's deserving significant and insightful treatment on TV and on film.

From more noteworthy is the fact that the series' dramatizations of the OFW syndrome is multigenerational—it starts with Christopher de Leon's lunch and goes on to include his son, played by Jodge Canseco, and the members of his generation. Hopefully, this will enable the series to arrive at a long-range view and examination of the festering issues involved.

Suspension of disbelief is required for the first "chapter" of the story, which involves actors who are too mature for their roles as the parents of young children—Christopher, Phillip Salvador, Gloria Diaz, Sandy Andolong, etc. This robs their early scenes of credibility and energy—not a good way to start a new show.

But the series' next several plus points refer to its dramatic concern for reliving the two couples' children as newborn babies. One of them was in the medical realm, but the other baby "emerged" it back in rigorous life.

Because of this, the two babies grow up with a strong psychic bond, further strengthened years later by the boy's female cousin of the girl (both both by cousins).

The "psychic bond" connects a fanciful at best, but it makes the relationship of the two young adult leads Dilet and Alaina May (Aimee) uniquely close and deep.

Also commendable is the show's examination of its screen shot in the Middle East, especially the boy's exposure to which Phillip (also while seeing Christopher's life at their work-site, as well as the scene after that, when Christopher runs out of the ambulance into the morning, mourning dawn, to mourn the death of his best friend and mentor.

The dreary scene was dramatic and moving, heightened further by the glistening, moody darkness of its lighting and staging.

After Phillip's death, we expect the story to focus on the budding romance that involves the two adolescent "psychic twins," and on what we perceive to be the growing enmity between Phillip's widow, Gloria, and Gloria's daughter, who resents Sandy for a murder of resentment, despite the fact that Phillip saved Gloria's husband's life.

Many more upheavals are in store for the story's central characters, especially when Jake and Shaina eventually take over and when get to work in the Middle East. We hope that despite the constant requirement for viewers to keep pumping their storylines with all the flashy melodrama they can muster, this series will continue to make sense of its complex OFW topic and theme.

The danger of melodrama may be what the ratings doctor has cornered, but better and more personal treatment than that would be more welcome. After all, there are millions of Filipinos who live the OFW story from day to dissecting day and they would certainly be grateful if their viewing were less stereotypical more than they get at the moment.

House to home

From page 1

owners home successfully from banks.

Directing and producing the show has been an eye-opener for Mariscal, making her a better homeowner to real life. "I now know the specifics and other important details that my guide me through the entire process of home ownership."

In spite of her full schedule, she made room for "Home Base" because she was passionately about its purpose.

Information is power, she noted. "The more information we give to viewers, the more we help them."

Apart from "Home Base" and "Bahay Zone," she is also working on a short doco for MOL. "In the months ahead more hong doons for MOL and a new movie, too."

She co-directs is Cesar Apolinario, GMA 7 fellow reporter of Marian's husband, Jiggy Manicad. She is currently posting the finishing touches on her first full-length feature film, "Dances of the Wind Rice."

The movie is top-billed by local actors Dingdong Dantes and Joey Paras and Hollywood star Patrick Bergin, and tells the story of Cebu's dancing mangoes.

"The film is on its final stages, and producers are scouting for distributors abroad," she related.

On top of all these media projects, she is also somehow on twin baby, Sam and Isabella. "I used to obey nanay from challenges," said Mariscal. But now I have them for breakfast!"

Int'l film fest consultant's advice

Programmer asks local filmmakers to go online with info on their projects

By Boyet Sun Diego Jr.

AS THE world gears up for the Cannes International Film Festival in May, a consultant for the Venice Film Festival visited Manila last March for his annual hunting expedition.

Paolo Bertolin told the buyers that he usually comes to Asia this time of the year to look for possible films he can recommend to the various festivals he works with—Venice and Udine, as well as the Vision du Réel documentary section of the Nyon fest in Switzerland.

For the Udine Far East Film Festival in Italy, ongoing till April 28, Bertolin "discovered" Auraeus Solito's "Six Degrees of Separation from Lilia Cuntapay."

(The other Filipino film in this year's Udine is Michel Hawaii's "Ang Babae ng Impeto Tanok.")

"I'm so proud of 'Six Degrees.' It's a must see. If it were up to me, I would've included it in the lineup of the world's top festivals," Bertolin said of Andanar's film.

Lilia-himself genre like "Six Degrees" affirm Bertolin's confirmed appreciation of Philippine cinema.

Impressed by indies

"Every time I am in Manila, I am impressed by the environment that provides the indie film scene," he remarked. "Here, cinema is still relevant. I am likewise struck by the youth of the producers, writers, and directors."

Bertolin was referring not only to chronological age, but to the youthful energy of indie filmmakers.

He pointed out veteran filmmaker Marilo O'Hara, who ventured into digital filmmaking with "Ang Pagbibita ni Andrea Bautista."

O'Hara's work is marked by "sheer joy," Bertolin pointed out. "You could see that he was happy to make movies again. The passion in Philippine cinema is evident. I don't see that in other countries."

He added that filmmakers elsewhere were jaded. He said it was clear in all those recognitions. "But 10% (plus filmmakers truly want to say something important. They love cinema."

There was no question about the diversity of films shown in the country, he said; it was more of having a systematic way of finding them.

He lauded the institutional support given by digital festivals like Cinemalaya, Cinemanila and Cinemarathon, but wondered how to reach directors outside the radar.

He suggested filmmakers to take charge of their projects and post information material on their films online.

Sound advice

"A simple, short synopsis, still stills, along with the filmmakers' contact numbers," he said.

He would've wanted to meet with various Filipino filmmakers including Erik Matti and Ray Defiante Gibraltar, among others), but his three day visit was too short.

Info his on the latest local happenings, he said, would be a big help in his research work, he said.

He plans to return in June, to serve as juror in a Chinese film festival.

PAOLO Bertolin (center) standing, holding trophy), as the Sinag Pantasma in Manuel last year, lauds the youthful energy of Filipino filmmakers.

Cristine refuses to apologize

From page 9

One day Cristine's good looks will fade. But the beauty in Ara's heart will remain.

Ecstatic Maui

Maui Taylor was ecstatic about having appeared in a Korean movie, "The Taste of Money"—a music competition entry in the 2012 Cannes Film Festival. Directed by Im Sang-soo, the movie is a follow-up to "The Housemaid," which was screened at the 2010 Cinemanila International Film Festival, where Sang-soo bagged the best director award.

Maui portrays the role of Eva, a Filipino nanny hired by the powerful Chaebol family. Many Filipinos in Seoul were hired to play minor Korean scenes, as well as some Cebuanos, during the shoot of the movie's final scenes in Cebu. The cast includes Kim Kang-woo, Kim Hyo-jin, Baek Yoon-sik (the Al Pacino of Korea, according to Maui) and Yoon Yeo-jeong.

Korean professionalism

What was it like working with Korean stars? "They are all famous in Korea," Maui pointed out. "So I was in good company. It was tough because of the language barrier and their strict professionalism. On set we only said 'hi.' There was no time for chismis. We concentrated on our lines. They were always on time. Bossed me-less. We worked in a focused style, 20 hours a day only."

Did the Korean stars have about Pinoy and Dance Live? "Nope," said Maui. "It's not a big issue for them."

Taking off from the movie's catchy title, what was most important to Maui—money or love? "Both are necessary," she explained. "But love weighs more for me. When I am down, it's the love of sincere people around me that gets me through. Money is cold and can't empathize with me when I'm sad. It comes in handy for retail therapy, but that's almost it."

Maui's participation in "The Taste of

CRISTINE Reyes

GRACE Lee

Money" is one priceless experience for her that money can't buy.

For feedback, e-mail sunnyboy.diego@yahoo.com

SHANG
CINEPLEX
1 THE AVENGERS 3D
2 THE AVENGERS
3 THE LUCKY ONE
4 THE AVENGERS
THE AVENGERS
Shangri-la Plaza

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
THE LUCKY ONE/ THE MIMICKERS - DOTS PKG
THE AVENGERS - PG13
THE AVENGERS - PG13
THE AVENGERS - PG13
THE LUCKY ONE/ DILAW/ THE AVENGERS - DOTS PKG
THE AVENGERS (IN 3D) - PG13

STA. LUCIA
THEATRE
3D SILVER SCREEN
DOLBY SURROUND EX
MORON 5 AND THE CRYING LADY
SECTOR 7
THE LUCKY ONE
THE AVENGERS
BATTLESHIP
THE AVENGERS
THE AVENGERS
THE AVENGERS
THE AVENGERS
THE AVENGERS (3D)

Lucky Chinatown
CINEMAS
The Lucky One
The Avengers
The Avengers 3D
The Avengers

NEWPORT
CINEMAS
The Lucky One
9:15am, 11:55am
2:15pm
The Avengers
5:00pm, 11:50pm
The Avengers
4:30pm, 10:40pm
The Avengers
4:00pm, 10:40pm
1:30am
The Avengers
9:00am, 12:00pm
3:00pm, 9:10pm
12:40mn

EASTWOOD
CINEMAS
THE AVENGERS
THE AVENGERS
THE AVENGERS
THE AVENGERS
THE AVENGERS
THE AVENGERS 3D
THE AVENGERS
THE AVENGERS

Ayala Malls
MOVIE TIME
GLORIETTA 4
1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: SECTOR 7
5: MORON 5 & THE CRYING LADY
6: THE AVENGERS (3D)
7: THE AVENGERS
GREENBELT 1
1: THE LUCKY ONE
2: THE AVENGERS
CINEMA 3
1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS (3D)
3: THE LUCKY ONE
4: THE AVENGERS
5: THE AVENGERS
SHANGRI-LA TOWN CENTRE
1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS (3D)
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: THE LUCKY ONE
5: THE AVENGERS
ABREEZA CENTER CINEMA
1: THE AVENGERS (2D)
2: THE AVENGERS
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: MORON 5 & THE CRYING LADY
MARQUEE
1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS (3D)
3: THE AVENGERS
4: THE AVENGERS
5: THE AVENGERS
6: THE AVENGERS
7: RESERVED
TRINOMA
1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS/ BATTLESHIP
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: THE AVENGERS (3D)
5: THE AVENGERS
6: THE AVENGERS
7: THE AVENGERS
ARBREZA
1: THE AVENGERS (3D)
2: THE AVENGERS
3: THE AVENGERS
4: THE LUCKY ONE
For ticket reservations or purchases,
text SureSeats to 2910
(for Globe and Smart) or
log on to www.sureseats.com
Movie schedules may change without prior notice.
For verification, please call 729-7777.
*Reservations open to all SureSeats users. Purchase open to all Pass cardholders only
MOVIE SPECIAL
LOVE's Watching!
MALL EVENTS
GLORIETTA
GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
TRINOMA
BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
AYALA CENTRE CEBU
MARQUEE
ABREEZA
CENTERGATE
MALL SPECIAL
AYALA MALLS RECYCLABLES FAIR
APRIL
glorietta
GREENBELT
Ayala Center Cebu
Trinoma
MARQUEE
Abreezo
Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2848

CHEER FACTOR

HUMBLE. (L-r) "Kalayaan" (from left) Zaijian Jaranilla, Ananda Everingham and Luis Manzi.

Two Pinoy indie films win int'l grants

TWO FILIPINO films have won grants abroad. Rina Mercado's "Nuevo Espalta" won the Inca Film project at the Riviera Maya Co-Production Lab held in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, last March 25. The award comes with a cash prize of US$15,000, according to producer Irene Carman. "Nuevo Espalta, which intertwines the themes of revolution and teleportation, will be shot in Mexico.

Adolfo Alix Jr.'s "Kalayaan (Wishes)" is one of 10 recipients of the grants given by the Global Film Initiative, an environmental arts organization. The chosen filmmakers come from different countries and will each receive $10,000.

"Kalayaan" centers on a Filipino soldier stationed on the disputed Spratly Islands. — Reported by Ian Diego Jr.

House to home

Docu filmmaker Marnie Manicad spearheads show on every Filipino's foremost dream

By Reports Ian Diego Jr.
Photos by JR and Arianne Rodrigues

MARNIE Handout (back to the camera) directs host Isabel Rocos on the set of "Home Base."

QUICK on the heels of the National Geographic Channel's (NGC) docu-romance "Inside Malacañang," filmmaker Marnie Manicad embarks on a new project—a weekly program dubbed "Home Base" which debuts April 28 on GMA News TV.

Before that, she came up with a motoring show entitled "Turbo Time," also on GMA News TV. This time she will focus on every Filipino's dream of home ownership.

"Our dream is building homes, changing lives," she pointed out. "We advocate sustainable community building. We are not just building homes, but homes."

"Home Base," she explained, will present a "step-by-step guide in acquiring, constructing and maintaining a home for Filipino families here and abroad."

DIRECTING the show is an eye opener for Manicad, making her a better homeowner in real life.

Hosted by interior designer/model Isabel Rocos, the show promises to tackle a wide range of real-estate issues. "We will feature high-end, middle-class, even Ground Ballinga and Habitat for Humanity homes," Manicad said.

The show has linked up with leading publications and government agencies to provide the most relevant information to the public.

"We are working with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) and Pag-Ibig Fund, under Vice President Jejomar Binay's Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC)."

She described the show as a "complete guide that will not only present budding ideas, but will also provide practical tips on maintaining and beautifying homes."

Further, the show will offer valuable advice to help potential buyers avoid fly-by-night developers and monopoly.

DID YOU KNOW...

Neil Diamond and Kathy Mustell

Neil weds again

NEW YORK—Neil Diamond has married his manager Katie Mcneil in front of family and close friends on Los Angeles, People magazine said on Sunday.

The 71-year-old singer-songwriter, who has written and performed dozens of hits including "Sweet Caroline," and McNeil on Saturday, several months before he kicks off another tour in the United States on June 1.

It is the third marriage for Diamond and the second for McNeil, 42. — Reuters

Greenwich Pasta Girls Show Why More is Better

Three of today's most beautiful and talented celebrities all agree that More is Better, just like the new Greenwich Spaghetti Supreme. Their stories tell that something better definitely awaits those who give more.

No other Anne

Anne Curtis: an A-list actress, bankable endorser, witty TV host and an ultimate entertainer. Her credentials make her one of the best, if not the best, in her generation. From teeny-bopper roles, Anne has taken a bold step in her career with the guidance of her VIVA family, her dedication, love for improvement and Anne's unique charm become her aid to stardom. Just recently, the Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Scholarship Foundation's 43rd Box Office Entertainment Awards named her Box Office Queen for "No Other Woman". It is her second time! Actress award for movies.

To add, Anne surpassed all expectations with the remarkable success of her concert "ANNEthesia". The entire Araneta Coliseum and Waterfront Cebu were packed. Her supporters witnessed her live her life-long dream of having her very own concert. This milestone showed how Anne really gives more of herself to becoming the supreme entertainer that she is.

Solenn takes it all

Solenn Heussaff was enjoying a successful modelling career when showbiz came knocking at her door. Shortly after Survivor, Solenn became a full-fledged showbiz darling.

She made her screen debut via the remake of "Temptation Island". As a validation to her breakthrough performance, Solenn was named Best New Movie Actress in the Star Awards for Movies given by the PMPC.

Solenn is not just an actress; she is also a painter, a make-up artist, a designer and a singer. The talents one can only dream of having, Solenn already possesses. Her many talents tell that Solenn is really an artist by heart.

This Kelly Lan

Kelly Misa made her mark as one of the country's top most recognizable faces. She has joined for a number of magazine covers, graced hundreds of fashion spreads, walked on various catwalks, and appeared on several television commercials of top brands both here and abroad. More than being a top model, Kelly is also a health and beauty columnist where she gives valuable tips on how to keep fit and enhance one's looks.

While enjoying a successful career, Kelly went ahead and did more than what was expected from a commercial model when she ventured into TV hosting. Her natural skill in facing the camera came in handy and she immediately gained a steady following. Kelly's stint in "Wowowee" made her a household name.

More is definitely better

Just like the 3 ladies, Greenwich gives more to its loyal kabarkadas with the new and improved Greenwich Spaghetti Supreme. Being that no-nonsense satisfaction is always Greenwich's top of mind, the Greenwich Spaghetti Supreme is now more better than ever with the added 25% serving of noodles, more premium beef, more sweet tomato sauce and served with 1pc. Garlic Bite still only P49. More of the yummy goodness for a more filling feast.

Visit the nearest Greenwich store and find out what Greenwich Spaghetti Supreme, Anne, Kelly and Solenn mean when they say More is Better.

ABOVE: Kelly, Anne and Solenn: They give more and now it gets only better.

BELOW: The more you give, the better it gets. Just like the new Greenwich Spaghetti Supreme, 25% more noodles, more premium beef, more sweet tomato sauce and served with 1pc Garlic Bite still only